

Levy unhappy over 'Syrian missiles'

MADRID (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Tuesday that Syria was building up missiles and could strain Israel's patience. "Syria is ... obtaining sophisticated and dangerous arms for mass destruction, for example Scud missiles from North Korea, some of which are already installed," Mr. Levy told a news conference in Madrid. He said this worried Israel as "the distance between Syria and Israel ... is not the same as the distance between Iraq and Israel." We hope Syria understands that any adventure aimed at Israel would be more dangerous for Syria itself. Our patience with Syria could be strained," Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez had told Mr. Levy. Spain was worried that the spread of Israeli settlements on the occupied territories was an obstacle to Middle East peace. The ministers said Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez would visit Israel in the second half of this year, to be followed by King Juan Carlos in 1992. Mr. Levy is to meet both Mr. Gonzalez and the king on Wednesday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Greek Cypriots say U.N. presses Turkey

NICOSIA (R) — Greek-Cypriot sources said on Tuesday that U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was pressing Turkey to make a Cyprus reunification conference possible. U.S. President George Bush visits both Greece and Turkey next month. Greek Cypriots hope he will spur reunification efforts. Greek-Cypriot sources said Mr. Perez de Cuellar wrote recently to all parties — Greece, Turkey, the Cyprus government and the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state in northern Cyprus. "The essence of the letter is that it refers to the need for Turkey to take the necessary steps to make the convening of a conference on Cyprus possible," the sources said. Both sides in the dispute have suggested an international conference but each rejects the forum proposed by the other. Turkey wants a four-way meeting in which the breakaway state would be an equal participant. Greek Cypriots, who control the island's only internationally recognised government, want to bring in the big five of the U.N. Security Council and relegate Turkish-Cypriot leaders to the role of community representatives.

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Croatia, Slovenia declare independence

BELGRAD (Agencies) — The republics of Croatia and Slovenia passed resolutions declaring independence from Yugoslavia Tuesday.

The Slovenian parliament adopted a proclamation of independence under which it will take over all functions of the Yugoslav state on its soil and gradually sever all ties with Yugoslavia. The declaration cleared the way for Slovenia to gradually break with the Balkan federation created in 1918.

The neighbouring Republic of Croatia declared independence a short while earlier Tuesday.

Both declared themselves independent and sovereign states, which will allow them to gradually sever ties with the rest of Yugoslavia, currently a federation of six republics and two provinces.

The two Western-leaning republics are breaking away after months of feuding with hardline communist Serbia and its allies, plunging Yugoslavia into economic chaos and near civil war.

"With unconcealed pleasure and pride, we are letting the republics and federal organs in Yugoslavia and the whole world know the sovereign will of the Croatian people," Croatian president Franjo Tudjman told the parliament.

"From this day the Republic of Croatia proclaims itself an independent and sovereign state."

Croatia's parliament broke into applause and sang the national anthem immediately after the vote.

It said it would be forming an alliance with Slovenia when both declared independence and would set up state borders with the other Yugoslav republics.

Independence crowns years of striving to break from Yugoslavia, which Croatia and Slovenia regard as a chain around their neck as the richest and most Westernised of Yugoslavia's six republics.

The republics also ended 45 years of Communist rule last year.

"This is the end of Yugoslavia as we knew it," a Western diplomat said.

Dutch politician to lead Iraq probe

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) has named a former Dutch foreign minister, Max van der Stoep, as its special investigator into alleged abuses in Iraq, United Nations officials said Tuesday. He is expected to gather evidence, interview alleged victims and, if Iraq agrees, visit the country as part of his probe. "Mr. Van der Stoep is to submit a report to the commission, the principal U.N. human rights forum, in time for its annual Geneva meeting next spring. Iraq was put on the list of countries coming under the panel's special scrutiny last March through a resolution sponsored by 27 mostly Western countries."

Bhutto's party alleges murder plan

KARACHI (R) — The People's Party of Pakistan (PPP), of Benazir Bhutto said on Tuesday it feared authorities in the volatile southern province of Sind planned to have her killed by bandits. The PPP said in a statement it had learned the provincial government had promised an amnesty to some well-known bandits "in return for launching a murderous attack" on Ms. Bhutto. The provincial government denied the charge. "There is no truth in the statement," a government spokesman said. In the past, the PPP has accused provincial Chief Minister Jan Sadig Ali of conspiring to eliminate Ms. Bhutto. Its latest statement charged Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with failing to provide necessary protection to Ms. Bhutto, who was sacked as prime minister last August.

PLO ready for joint delegation with Jordan if it has the final say

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A week after the formation of the new cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Taher Masi, a senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said that the organisation would agree to the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks provided that the PLO named the Palestinian side and determined its negotiating position.

"The idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation can be acceptable if the PLO forms the Palestinian side that should represent Palestinians from inside the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and outside the territories," Abdullah Hourani, member of the PLO executive committee, told the Jordan Times in an interview.

"The PLO's right to form the Palestinian side involves naming it and maintaining the final say in determining the Palestinian position throughout the talks," he said.

Palestinian sources have dis-

closed that His Majesty King Hussein had told the PLO that he would be ready to consider the formation of a joint delegation if the PLO requested so in writing.

Mr. Hourani explained that the problem did not lie in the form of Palestinian participation but rather in U.S. insistence not to accept or to allow a role for the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

"This issue is not a source of contention between the PLO and Jordan but it is the essence of the conflict between the PLO and the U.S.," Mr. Hourani said.

"We shall never allow this to be a source of conflict between Jordan and the PLO," the PLO official said.

Mr. Hourani's statement, according to analysts, reflects the same Jordanian concern not to allow any difference over procedural matters to create tension between the two sides.

Both Jordan and the PLO seem keen to focus the attention on what they view as the bottom line of the peace process — i.e. Israeli acceptance of a territorial compromise.

"In the final analysis if there is no seriousness on the part of the U.S. to prod Israel into peace negotiations with the objective of implementing United Nations Security Council resolutions, all talk about procedures is futile," Mr. Hourani argued, referring to American statements that the suggested peace talks would discuss Resolution 242, which calls for an exchange of land for peace, but would not be based upon it.

"The U.S. is focusing on modalities to deflect attention from the real issues," Mr. Hourani stressed.

Judging by statements by both sides, Jordan and the PLO are trying to avert the experiences of 1984 and 1985 when bilateral agreements over coordination, and even joint negotiations, fell through as a result of differences over the form of Palestinian participation.

"As a result Israel was left off the hook, although in both cases Tel Aviv did not give any signs of accepting a territorial compromise while Washington

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Detained activists released

AMMAN (J.T.) — Eight political activists detained by security forces on charges of slander against former Prime Minister Mudar Badran were released last Wednesday, according to family sources of the activists.

The release followed the designation of Mr. Taher Masi to form the new cabinet, and it is believed that the decision was taken by Interior Ministry and security officials in the former government.

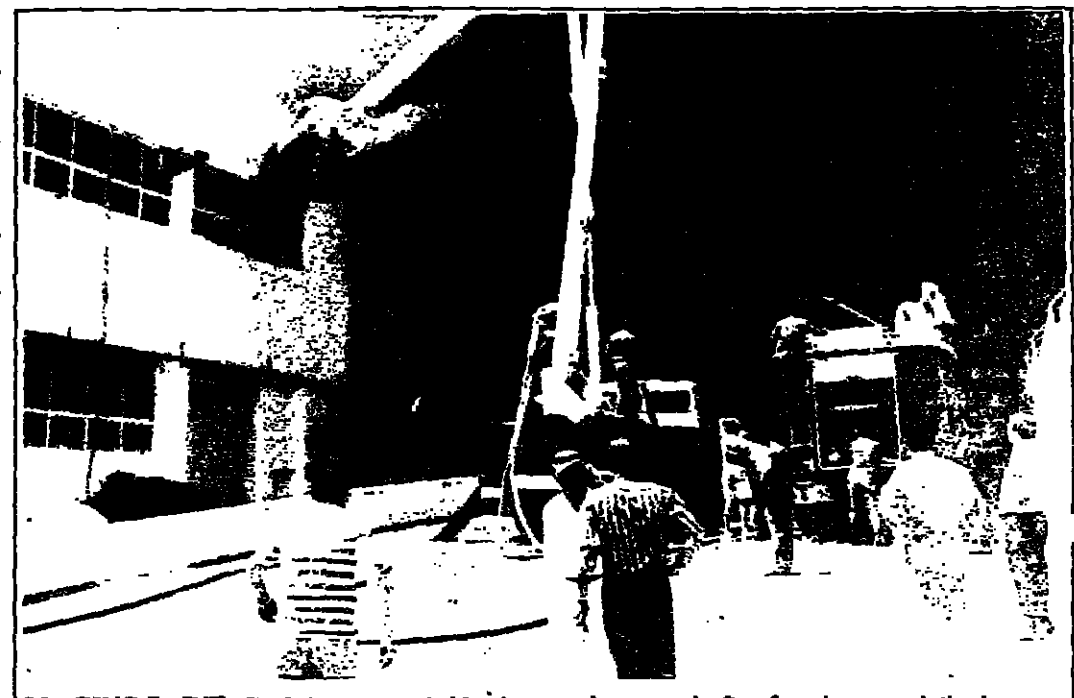
Six of the activists, who allegedly belong to the "Jordanian Communist Party — the Revolutionary Path," were rounded up from their homes on June 6. The other two were picked up later.

"The Jordanian Communist Party — the Revolutionary Path" is a breakaway faction of the Jordanian Communist Party.

Security sources had told the Jordan Times at the time the six were detained on charges of distributing leaflets containing personal slander against Mr. Badran and his family. Security forces were then pondering putting the activists on trial but they had evidently changed their mind.

The release was viewed as a positive sign towards consolidating the democratic experiment and pluralism in the country.

All of the released activists were in good health.



BLAZING PAINT: Firefighters struggle Monday under control after four hours and the loss was estimated at JD 500,000. No serious casualties were reported (see page 3).

Major: No pullout from Iraq without 'security assurances' Allies planning 'rapid deployment force'

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime Minister John Major pledged on Tuesday British troops would remain in Iraq until assurances were in place for Kurdish security, including a military presence.

Mr. Major, answering questions in parliament, said it was not Britain's intention to seek a permanent troop presence in Iraq but British forces would not leave without assurances for Kurds who allegedly fear Iraqi reprisals if troops pull out.

Mr. Major said there would need to be a "continuing deterrent military presence in the region" to back up allied warnings to Baghdad.

The United States, apparently bowing to pressure from Gulf war allies, says it is considering a special strike force to protect Kurds in northern Iraq.

It was also signalled readiness to negotiate a "gentlemen's agreement" that would, initially at least, put a ceiling of around 30 per cent on the amount of oil revenue Baghdad has to put up for war reparations.

Officials in London said options included a force all in Iraq, all in Turkey or divided between the two

"we're talking about deterrence, credible deterrence," one said. Military sources and press reports say Washington and its allies are thinking of forming a 5,000-strong rapid reaction force, to be based in southeast Turkey under an operation called "Poised Hammer."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the new force, if created, would supplement a small United Nations contingent of security guards already in Iraq and due to eventually number 500.

"The subject of the provision of a force in the area after coalition forces leave northern Iraq is under discussion within the coalition," he told a Washington news conference.

"This would be a multi-national rapid deployment force that could supplement U.N. forces in maintaining security in the area," he said.

Mr. Fitzwater said he had no details on the size of such a force, who would participate, or where it would be based.

What was under discussion, the London officials said, was an interim measure to ensure Kurdish security, perhaps until an autonomy deal be-

tween Kurds and Baghdad was seen working.

The autonomy talks have been going on since April. Kurdish rebel chief Massoud Barzani says his people have given him a mandate to sign an agreement which includes an Iraqi pledge to hold national, multi-party elections within a year and Kurdish elections within three months.

Mr. Major said there were four conditions that had to be met before any U.S.-led allied troops withdrew.

He listed these as:

— "An effective United Nations force on the ground (in Iraq)."

— "Clear warnings to Iraq that any renewed action will meet the severest response."

— "A continuing deterrent military presence in the region to back up those warnings."

— "And the maintenance of sanctions against Iraq."

He added: "Without that we will not leave."

The Security Council hopes to vote this week on a resolution that puts a 30 per cent ceiling on the amount Iraq will have hand over after the U.N. allows it to resume oil sales.

Israel says it can do without U.S. aid

TEL AVIV (AP) — Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said on Tuesday the United States should feel a moral obligation to supply Israel with aid for an influx of Soviet immigrants, but that the Jewish state would manage if it did not arrive.

"I do not underestimate American assistance, but one should not overestimate it. We are not one of the American states and certainly not an American colony. We can't force them to help us. All we can do is ask — ask nicely," Mr. Mordechai said.

Washington is pressing Israel to halt Jewish settlement in the occupied territories or risk \$10 billion in loan guarantees it is expected to request from the United States in September to help absorb hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews.

"This is not a matter of give and take ... it's a matter of whether one feels responsible. If they don't feel a moral responsibility ... we can't talk them into doing it," Mr. Mordechai told Reuters after a speech to international Jewish fundraisers.

"We certainly have a programme ready in the event that, for

example, just one third of the expected U.S. aid materialises. If, God forbid, we should need it, it can be activated most quickly."

Mr. Mordechai said he hoped he would not be forced to implement the "painful plan" which would cut Israel's living standards.

It will cost Israel \$50 billion to settle a million Soviet Jews expected to arrive in the next five years, he said. The economy is already struggling to house and employ about 320,000 immigrants who came in the last two years.

Mr. Mordechai said Israel's population would swell by a quarter and the economy would have to create 500,000 jobs by the mid-1990s. Israel has a workforce of 1.2 million and a 10 per cent unemployment rate, expected to rise in coming years.

Israeli and Jewish officials have said privately that Israel could not cope without U.S. loan guarantees that would enable it to raise 30-year loans on favourable interest terms.

The need for U.S. aid could present Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who has sworn to keep

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan denies violating U.N. sanctions on Iraq

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan has told the British government that, in spite of big trade figures with Iraq published by a London newspaper, it has stayed within the U.N. rules.

"It is not as the paper was saying," Prime Minister Taher Masi told Reuters on Tuesday after a diplomatic exchange sparked by the Observer.

Trade Ministry Under-Secretary Ibrahim Badran said Britain indicated it was satisfied with the response, sent through Amman's embassy in London.

The Observer printed what it said were documents on Iraq-Jordan trade talks on Sunday, saying they showed Amman was sanctions-busting on an "enormous" scale.

Dr. Badran said two-way trade volume cited by the Observer — \$665 million in the year to April 1991 — was mainly oil imported with tacit consent from the United Nations.

"We told the British government that the news referred to in the Observer is very grossly exaggerated," Dr. Badran told

Reuters.

"This is very much a fabricated story... the volume of trade was not put in the right framework."

He said the annual figures include about \$400 to \$500 million worth of Iraqi oil which Jordan continued to receive with tacit approval from the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

Iraq supplies Jordan with crude oil to repay old debt. The U.N. Sanctions Committee did not object.

Jordanian exports of food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies which Iraq is now allowed to buy under the trade ban and transport fees from Aqaba account for the rest of the figure, Dr. Badran said.

Dr. Badran said a reference in the document to providing Iraq with technology had been carried over from the minutes of previous annual meetings of the 10-year-old joint trade group.

"We depend totally on imported technology from Europe and the United States... not a single case has been exported to Jordan and re-exported to Iraq."

(Continued on page 5)

Islamists, police clash in Algeria, 7 killed

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Police clashed early Tuesday with Muslim fundamentalists angered at the removal of Islamic insignia from public buildings, killing one person and wounding 12, military authorities said.

The death was the first reported since the proclamation of a state of emergency June 5 to quell fundamentalist protests.

Police fired warning shots and lobbed teargas grenades late Monday and early Tuesday to break up the protests in eastern Algiers and in the Bab Al Oued neighbourhood, fundamentalists' strongholds where youths harassed police reinstating the official motto, "but the people, for the people," on local city halls.

Military authorities said one person died and 12 were injured in the confrontation in Bourj Al Kiffan, on the east coast of the capital.

A statement said fundamentalist militants had transgressed the curfew and "called for violence."

Authorities closed off an eastern coastal road after protesters set up barricades of burning tires, tree trunks and debris.

The sounds of gunfire could be heard throughout the night just east of Algiers and in Bab Al

Oued neighbourhood as protesters defied the curfew which went into force with the June 5 state of emergency.

The militants, ignoring the state of siege, were trying to stop police removing Islamic signs on official buildings controlled by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) since last year's local elections.

Under the state of siege, imposed by President Chadli Benjedid, public gatherings and protests are banned.

More clashes were reported in the Algiers suburbs of Badjarrah and Maqaria, and the coastal town of Zeralda, 25 kilometres west of the capital.

In Bab Al Oued the police deployed at least nine police vans outside the local headquarters of the DGSF (security forces) but later withdrew them.

Groups of fundamentalists could be seen in the afternoon preparing petrol bombs in side streets.

"The atmosphere reminds one of that during the events of October 1988," an Algerian radio commentator said, referring to riots in which officials said 159 people were killed. Other estimates said the death toll was 500.

(Continued on page 3)

Martial law comes to end in Kuwait today

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — Martial law in effect since Kuwait's liberation will end after Wednesday, Kuwait's minister of justice said Tuesday.

"It was extended for a month, it won't be extended again," Minister Ghazi Obeid Al Sammar said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Martial law was due to expire Wednesday.

The minister said the martial law courts which have been criticised by international human rights groups and several governments would be disbanded and the remaining cases sent to the general prosecutor for redistribution to the regular court system.

The sentences that had passed by the courts so far would remain in place, he said.

The martial law courts, in session since May 19, have passed 29 death sentences.

Some 325 of 450 defendants have already been tried. Most have been Jordanians, Palestinians, Iraqis, and stateless Arabs, charged with various degrees of "collaboration" during Iraq's six-month occupation of Kuwait.

Rejecting charges that the trials were unfair, the minister earlier told the London-based

newspaper Sawt Al Kuwait. "The most eloquent proof of justice is that these trials were conducted publicly and before all to see."

He said the death sentences will be reviewed by three judges of the court of appeals and by the crown prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who is the martial law governor.

"That process stands for the sentences already decided," the justice minister said in a telephone interview from his home in Kuwait.

"Those sentenced to death for 'collaboration' include 11 stateless Arabs, nine Jordanians, two Palestinians, two Lebanese, a Kuwaiti, an Iraqi and three whose nationality was not known."

The minister said he expected most of the collaboration cases would be turned over to the state security courts. There is no appeal in these courts, but the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, can grant pardons.

The basic law that the defendants are judged under will not change, as "endangering state security" can still carry the death penalty. Under regular law, all death sentences must be approved by the emir.

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Pro-Iranian leader says hostage efforts at standstill

BEIRUT (R) — A senior pro-Iranian leader said on Tuesday that efforts to secure the release of 12 Western hostages held in Lebanon were at a standstill because neither Tehran nor Washington were willing to make concessions.

"There is no progress, not even one per cent, in the hostage issue," said the leader, a Lebanese who spoke to Reuters on condition he was not identified.

He said the plight of the hostages was directly related to international politics and relations between Iran and the West.

"The Iranians are not willing to establish relations with the United States at any cost. The Iranians are not willing to make any concession whatsoever to the United States," he said.

"In the same context, the Americans don't want to resolve the matter."

A Western diplomatic source in Beirut also reported no major development on the hostages, especially the Americans. "It is all in the hands of Iran and unfortunately, there is nothing happening at all for those captives," he said.

There are 12 Western hostages believed held in Lebanon by extremists loyal to Iran. They are six Americans, three Britons, two

Germans and an Italian.

The longest-held of the captives is American journalist Terry Anderson, who was kidnapped in March 1985.

The pro-Iranian leader said prospects for the British hostages were not brighter despite restored ties between Iran and Britain and a recent visit to Beirut by a British official.

Foreign office Minister Douglas Hogg, after his four-day visit to Lebanon earlier this month, said there were grounds for cautious optimism for the three Britons because the governments involved wanted to bring the affair to a close.

Mr. Hogg saw Lebanese officials and Muslim leaders but did not meet anyone who would influence with the kidnappers.

The pro-Iranian leader said on Tuesday, "There is movement between London and Tehran but nothing out of the ordinary... Hogg's visit to Beirut appears linked more to British internal politics than to a serious effort to get the captives free."

He said the Western hostages would only be released as part of a swap with Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

"But there is no indication of an American or Israeli willingness to go through with such a deal now."

Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, a moderate who heads Lebanon's Higher Shi'ite Council, has also said that the fate of the hostages depends on U.S. and European pressure on the Israelis to arrange such a swap.

"Without it, I do not have any practical evidence of an imminent hostage release," he told a Beirut radio station.

The pro-Iranian leader said Iran's improving ties with Western Europe reduced its need to move closer to Washington.

"Iran's relations with Europe are solid, notably with France and Germany... there are periodic consultations between the leaders of these two countries and the Iranians," he said. "Such relations allow Tehran to manage without ties with Washington."

French President Francois Mitterrand is expected in Tehran soon and Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will make a return visit to Paris.

Tehran, once a key U.S. ally in the Middle East, fell out with Washington after the Islamic revolution of 1979, when the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seized power in Iran.

Relations were formally broken a year later when Iranian students stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held U.S. diplomats hostage for 444 days.

France: Expelled writer met Iraqis, Libyans

PARIS (R) — French Interior Minister Philippe Marchand said on Tuesday a Moroccan writer expelled from France had contact with the governments of Iraq and Libya.

France last week expelled Abdelmoumen Diouri, a political refugee who was about to publish a book revealing details of the health of King Hassan of Morocco.

The expulsion touched off a public row between Mr. Marchand and Humanitarian Aid Minister Bernard Kouchner who disagreed with the decision.

"What Mr. Diouri should not have done was to contact foreign powers, such as Iraq — he went to Iraq — Libya, and Palestinian extremists," Mr. Marchand said on French radio.

"He met with foreign fundamentalist and extremist groups who want to destabilise North Africa."

The expulsion, which brought a rash of protests by human rights groups, was endorsed by President Francois Mitterrand who said Mr. Diouri had often breached the duty of political refugees to show restraint in criticising foreign governments.

"Diouri attended meetings in France with those who want to destabilise the power in their own countries and who put our domestic security in danger," Mr. Marchand said.

Mr. Marchand criticised Mr. Kouchner who on Monday night attacked the government's decision to expel Mr. Diouri.

"As a minister I talk about affairs I am familiar with," Mr.

Marchand said. "I have a certain notion of governmental solidarity that Kouchner seems to have forgotten a bit."

Mr. Kouchner told French television he was "shocked and indignant" and had considered resigning over the issue.

French ties with Morocco were strained last summer when French author Gilles Perrault published a book accusing King Hassan of human rights violation.

Mr. Perrault was among some 2,000 protesters in Paris on Monday who called on Mr. Marchand to resign or immediately bring Mr. Diouri back to France.

In its first comments on Mr. Diouri's expulsion, Morocco said on Tuesday it noted he was accused of links with "foreign groups and powers capable of disrupting public security and being harmful to France's interests."

The official Maghreb Arab Press Agency (MAP) said in a commentary from Rabat that the uproar over the deportation was an attempt by Morocco's enemies to advance their cause.

Rabat has never accorded any special importance to Mr. Diouri or his work, the agency said.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Mr. Diouri was not expelled for the anti-Hassan book he wrote, but because he broke rules binding political refugees.

"It is not the writer who was thrown out, it is not the militant who has left France," Mr. Dumas said at the National Assembly.

"It is someone who was granted the right to asylum and who broke the rules pertaining to that right to asylum."

Kuwait has no plans to devalue dinar

NICOSIA (R) — Kuwait's central bank governor Tuesday ruled out a devaluation of the dinar and said bank regulations limiting the amount of money that can be withdrawn or transferred abroad would be eased next month.

"What is being said about a devaluation of the dinar is totally unfounded and not even contemplated," Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah said in an interview with Kuwait's official news agency KUNA, received in Cyprus.

He did not identify the source of devaluation speculation.

The dinar was last fixed at 0.29379/89 to the dollar, making it worth about 3.40 dollars.

It was the second time in less than three weeks that Sheikh Salem dismissed unidentified reports of a dinar devaluation.

A policy adopted 16 years ago to peg the dinar against a basket of currencies continued to prove effective, he told KUNA.

He said the dinar's loss of value in recent weeks — 2.6 per cent against the dollar from March 24 to June 19 — resulted from the growing strength of the U.S. currency.

The government, in one of its first decisions after the Gulf war ended in February, announced that the dinar rate was unchanged from the one set on the eve of Iraq's invasion last Aug. 2.

Sheikh Salem said a ceiling on bank withdrawals or transfers of 4,000 dinars a month would be raised to 6,000 dinars on July 1.

U.N. team finds no proof that Iraq is misleading it

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. team sent to Iraq to destroy chemical weapons reported finding substantial quantities of chemical warfare agents, but said it saw no evidence so far that Iraq was trying to mislead the commission on its biological, nuclear or missile capability.

Formally known as the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) for the destruction of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, the team issued a press statement Monday on the results of its first inspection in Iraq at the Muthanna State Establishment.

The 20-person team visited the site, often referred to in Western press reports as Samarra, June 2-14. Dr. Peter Dunn of Australia was head of the team, and Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Knapp of Canada served as deputy chief inspector.

According to the information released at U.N. headquarters by a press spokesman, the team found "mustard gas and organophosphorus nerve agents both as bulk agents and in the form of munitions." It also found evidence of impure tabun (agent GA whose use in the Iran-Iraq war was verified by other U.N. investigations) and large quantities of precursor chemicals "mainly acquired from abroad."

Iraqi representatives told the team that the site had been used for the production of the herbicides Propanil and Dalapon and for research on the nerve agents Soman and VX, but that no large-scale production of the nerve agents had been undertaken.

The team said it "saw nothing on this occasion which was inconsistent" with Iraq's assertion that nerve agents were not produced, "but concluded that two undamaged and sophisticated pilot plants found on the site would require further investigation."

Noting that the visit was "only an initial exploratory inspection," the team said it was not possible to come to "any conclusion as to the veracity of the overall Iraqi declaration concerning the Muthanna State Establishment."

However, the team members said

they "found no indication that Iraq was deliberately trying to mislead the commission; indeed, the attitude of the Iraqi authorities throughout was cooperative."

"The team found no evidence at the site of any undeclared activity related to biological, nuclear or missile capability," the report said.

The team said that many areas of the 170-square-kilometre site are "hazardous in the extreme," with most major structures on the site either totally destroyed or severely damaged as a result of bombing during the war.

The site contains unexploded ordnance, "leaking chemical munitions, and the presence of chemical agent(s) was detected in some areas and structures," the report said. "There is a clear need to clean up the site and to commence the destruction process as quickly as possible."

The next step will be a full inspection of the site and talks with Iraq on the destruction process, the report said. "Because of the size of the site and the extent of the facilities, as well as the hazards involved, the full inspection could well be a lengthy process."

Iraq had told the United Nations of the Muthanna facility, located 80 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, when it reported on its weapons capabilities in April as required by the Security Council's ceasefire resolution. It said research and development, production, munitions manufacturing, and storage facilities were located there. Iraq also acknowledged that substantial quantities of chemical warfare agents, chemical weapons precursor chemicals, and chemical munitions were at Muthanna.

To determine the scope of the destruction process, other UNSCOM teams are making initial exploratory inspections of all the sites named by Baghdad as having chemical, nuclear or ballistic weapons. The teams are also planning on making surprise visits to undisclosed locations to determine if Baghdad is hiding any weapons or facilities (USIS).

Pan Am bombing planned by Libay, Stern magazine says

HAMBURG, Germany (R) — Libya planted the bomb that blew apart a Pan American airliner over Scotland, killing 270 people, the German news magazine Stern reported Tuesday.

Its report contradicted earlier suspicions that the December 1988 explosion on the London-New York flight over the village of Lockerbie was carried out by Palestinians on the orders of Iran to avenge the shooting down of an Iranian Airbus over the Gulf by a U.S. warship in July that year.

Stern said Libya's bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 was detailed in files of an investigation of the Lockerbie blast by the British, U.S. and German police and secret services.

It said the conclusion was substantiated in the files of the former East German security police, the Stasi, which also said Libya was behind the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque in 1986 in which three people — two of them U.S. soldiers — were killed and more than 200 people injured.

The Stasi files said the discotheque blast was in revenge for the U.S. bombing of Tripoli that year and Libya planned also to attack an American airliner, Stern said.

The magazine said the breakthrough for investigators came when British experts uncovered the remains of a detonator equipped with an electronic timer so accurate that it could be set for anything from 99 seconds to 999 days.

Stern said the timing device contained an integrated chip of a type delivered to Libya in 1985 by a Swiss-based firm.

The chips were sent to a Tripoli company under the control of the Libyan Interior Ministry. The purchaser was later identified as a senior official of the Libyan secret service, Stern said.

The magazine said Iran and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) had been suspected because 16 PFLP suspects were arrested in Germany two months before the Pan Am bombing.

Kuwaiti oil fires seen scant threat to global weather

WASHINGTON (USIS) — Smoke plumes from the oil well fires still burning in Kuwait seem to pose less of a global threat than had been suspected earlier, though they do present an environmental hazard for the Gulf area, scientists who have been studying the problem say.

Even in the region itself, the atmospheric effects rise only to the level of a concern rather than a major crisis, they suggested June 24 at a press conference at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The scientists are among a group of 27 who recently returned from a four-week study visit to the Gulf region coordinated by NSF, a research-supporting arm of the U.S. government.

Their work involved "the most comprehensive measurements to date" of the atmospheric impact of the hundreds of oil well fires set by retreating Iraqi troops during the Gulf war, Robert Correll, assistant director for geosciences at NSF, said in opening the briefing.

But the group's findings were challenged at another press conference the same day held by the environmental organisation, Friends of the Earth. Brent Blackwelder, the organisation's chairman, called the NSF report "one of a continuing series of reports by the U.S. government to downplay the seriousness of the situation."

Correll reported at the NSF briefing that the study participants "expect some regional effects on weather, but the preliminary findings thus far do not suggest that there will be major disruptions to global weather or climate."

A key reason for that optimism, Correll and other participants said, is that in 35 research flights conducted by the scientists, they never detected smoke plumes above 22,000 feet (6,700 metres) — well below the level at which the noxious mixture is likely to be swept worldwide.

"For smoke to cause a climatic catastrophe it has to remain in the atmosphere for a long time," said Lawrence Radke, of the NSF-funded National Centre for Atmospheric Research, who directed operations on one of the two research planes used. "The only way it can do that is for it to get high into the atmosphere by not being removed by clouds."

Theory suggested that if the smoke were black enough it would absorb sufficient heat from the sun to climb to the stratosphere," Radke continued. But, he said, "convincing evidence from these experiments indicates that no significant fraction of the smoke is going to reach the stratosphere."

In addition, in contrast to what some had expected, the smoke particles are attracted to water and should be removed efficiently as precipitation."

But Radke acknowledged that this precipitation is having its own impact in the immediate Gulf area, where oily rain and soot deposits are darkening the desert floor. "In effect, Kuwait is being painted black," he said.

Peter Hobbs, of the University of Washington, who directed research aboard the other plane, said that while not all the smoke was as black as expected, it still was thick enough and dark enough to obscure the midday sun, cripple visibility and sharply reduce surface temperatures.

In Bahrain, some 400 kilometres to the south of the fires, he said, the average temperature in May was below normal by 7.4 degrees Fahrenheit (4.1 degrees Centigrade).

The scientists told of repeated data-collection flights through the smoke plumes, the temperatures aboard regularly rising to 110 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 to 48.9 degrees Centigrade) and the aircraft emerging coated with oil residue.

"This is as close as I would like to get to hell," Hobbs said. He said the fires and the 5,000

metric tonnes of soot emitted each day represent "a serious local problem."

But asked whether the problem amounted to a crisis of major proportions, he replied, "I classify it as a concern."

Hobbs said an even like the recent eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines is likely to have longer-lasting atmospheric effects than the oil fires. Volcanoes often blast material into the stratosphere, he explained. On the other hand, he noted, the fires are emitting more sulphur dioxide — a major cause of acid rain — than does the typical erupting volcano.

He said calculations based on the airborne measurements suggest the Kuwaiti fires are spewing one to two million tonnes of carbon dioxide daily into the atmosphere — about one per cent of the daily emissions from all sources. That suggests the fires are consuming some three million barrels of oil a day, or about five per cent of worldwide consumption, he said.

Alban Bandy, an atmospheric chemist from Drexel University, said his studies aboard the research plane found sulphur dioxide concentrations of more than five parts per million within dark plumes close to the burning wells. But he said concentrations decreased to one to 10 parts per 1,000 million at a distance of 650 kilometres downwind — a level typically found in large urban areas.

Friends of the Earth, which sent its own seven-member scientific team to the Gulf, reported at its counter-briefing that the problem of the Kuwaiti oil fires is getting worse and could get completely out of control if allowed to continue. James George, former Canadian ambassador to Kuwait who headed the Friends of the Earth team, declared that "huge lakes of oil are beginning to catch fire, the most serious oil fires have not been extinguished, and the fires continue to spread."

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Velayati meets Hurd's deputy

LONDON (AP) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met a deputy of Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd for 50 minutes of talks Tuesday morning, the Foreign Office said. Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd met Mr. Velayati at Heathrow airport, west London, where the Iranian minister was in transit for a flight to Geneva, a Foreign Office spokesman said. "The two ministers discussed regional and bilateral issues, including Iraq after the Gulf war and the position of Iraqi Shi'ites and Kurds," said the spokesman. The two men also discussed "how the two countries might cooperate to speed the release of all hostages in the (Middle East) area on humanitarian grounds," the spokesman said.

Britain has pressed Iran for help on this issue since the two countries resumed diplomatic relations in October after an 18-month break caused by the Salman Rushdie affair. Four Britons, including Church of England envoy Terry-White, are among Westerners missing in Lebanon. Relations between Britain and Iran were cut after the late Iranian leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, condemned Mr. Rushdie, a British novelist, to death in Feb. 1989 for blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses." In Geneva, Mr. Velayati will attend a meeting on the Middle East organised by the World Economic Forum, a non-profit, private foundation based in the Swiss city.

Less than 50,000 U.S. troops remain in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — Nearly half a million of the American servicemen and women sent to the Gulf for the war over Kuwait have gone home, leaving fewer than 50,000 in the area, the U.S. military said Tuesday. Major Gary Perugini, spokesman for the U.S. joint information bureau in Dhahran, told Reuters by telephone that as of Monday 49,600 U.S. servicemen and women remained in the Gulf region. He said U.S. troops would probably be in the area until January 1992 because it would take another six months to pack up heavy equipment and weapons. "The majority of the remaining troops are stationed along the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia where they are busy preparing to leave. The number varies from day to day but we think all the troops will be redeployed by January 1992," Hog Perugini said. The U.S. force peaked at 540,000 during the January-February war against Iraq. Mr. Perugini said 4,500 of the remaining troops were in Kuwait itself and were expected to leave in September. Kuwait, its Gulf Arab neighbours, Egypt and Syria have broadly agreed to station 26,000 troops on Kuwait soil by December 1990. Major Gary Perugini said 16,500 of the remaining force were on ships at sea.

Kuwait arrests 16 attempted 'infiltrators'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti authorities have arrested 16 people trying to infiltrate the emirate from the Gulf, Al Qabas newspaper said Tuesday. It said a coast guard patrol intercepted a boat off Kuwait city Monday and found none of the 16 had entry permits. Several other boats had been stopped over the past weeks. Al Qabas did not identify those under arrest. Iranian fishermen have resumed putting into Kuwait to sell their catches since the U.S.-led allies pushed Iraqi forces out of the emirate at the end of February.

Libya still holding political prisoners — Amnesty

LONDON (R) — Libya is still holding hundreds of political prisoners despite pledges by Colonel Muammar Gadhafi that human rights would be improved, Amnesty International said on Wednesday. Human rights in Libya had worsened since 1988, when 400 political prisoners were freed in an amnesty and legal reforms to safeguard human rights were announced, the London-based human rights group said. "Hundreds of political prisoners have been jailed in the past two years, including prisoners of conscience," Amnesty said in a report. "Arbitrary arrests and secret incommunicado detention are continuing." Libya was still holding more than 450 political prisoners, including five known prisoners of conscience, Amnesty said. The five had been in prison since 1973 when they were charged with belonging to a banned political party. Amnesty had been campaigning for their freedom for more than 10 years. Amnesty said most political prisoners had been arrested after Col. Qadhafi's 1988 promise to introduce legal reforms and make Libya a place where human rights were respected. Nearly 400 political prisoners arrested between January 1989 and May 1990 were still being held without trial. Amnesty said its appeals to the Libyan government to respect human rights had gone unanswered. The group once more urged Libya to free prisoners of conscience and ensure prompt and fair trials for all political prisoners.

Bomb wounds militiaman in South Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — A militiaman from the Shi'ite Muslim movement Amal was wounded by a bomb on Tuesday in one of three attacks on the Syrian-backed organisation in South Lebanon, security sources said. Unidentified gunmen in a speeding car hurled the bomb into an Amal office in the southern port of Tyre, 76 kilometres south of Beirut, and then fired machineguns towards other militiamen standing outside, they said. No other casualties were reported. In two separate attacks in the village of Ta'ir Debbeh, east of Tyre, a bomb exploded near a car belonging to an Amal militiaman and an Amal car was set ablaze, the sources added. Amal's main rival in the south is the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim Hizbullah (Party of God). There has been a number of vendetta incidents between gunmen from the two groups.

Four killed in clash with Turkish troops

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — Four Kurdish guerrillas were killed in a shootout with security forces in southeastern Turkey, the regional governor's office said Tuesday. The announcement also said a village guard was shot dead by the rebels prior to their clash with security forces. The gunfight took place near Palamut township in Siirt province on Monday. Most village guards in southeastern Turkey are ethnic Kurds who work with the security forces. Kurdish guerrillas have been fighting since 1984 to set up an independent Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey. About 3,000 people, including civilians, security personnel and insurgents, have died in clashes since then. Ethnic Kurds make up one-fifth of Turkey's population of 55 million.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Children's programme
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Don't wait up
21:10 Our House
22:00 News in English
22:30 Not a penny More, Not a Penny Less

PRAYER TIMES

05:27 Fajr (Shari'at) Duma
12:33 Dhuhr
16:13 'Asr
19:30 Maghreb
20:10 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh, Tel. 810740
Automobiles of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77561.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Assiout International Church Tel. 683360.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 21 / 36

Aqaba 26 / 41

Deserts 22 / 39

Jordan Valley 25 / 41

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 36, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500

Dr. Saad Tawfiq 782285

Dr. Abdul Qader Lala 696048

Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740

Firas Pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

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Dumas due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is expected to arrive in Amman Saturday on a two-day official visit to Jordan during which he will have an audience with His Majesty King Hussein.

A spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying that the visit is part of the contacts Mr. Dumas has recently made with a number of Arab countries.

Clash in Algeria

(Continued from Page 1)

Mosque leaders in FIS strongholds called over loudspeakers for residents to stop the police removing the Islamic signs. In Bab Al Oued two signs remained.

Algerian radio said that in Badjura the mosque leaders called for a holy war and defiance of the 11 p.m. to 3.30 a.m. curfew imposed on the capital and three other towns after a three-day break for Eid Al Adha.

Al Kouba, another FIS stronghold on the heights of Algiers, witnesses told the evening newspaper *Le Soir* that the mosque issued its appeal at midnight. The sound of lorries and cars could be heard immediately afterwards, followed by gunfire.

In the narrow crowded streets of Bab Al Oued, youths raced to slam buckets over the tear-gas grenades and hurled stones at police. Shops shut and passers-by fled up narrow side roads.

FIS militants brought traffic to a halt by building barricades out of lorries. Army and police helicopters clattered overhead as the clash continued into the afternoon.

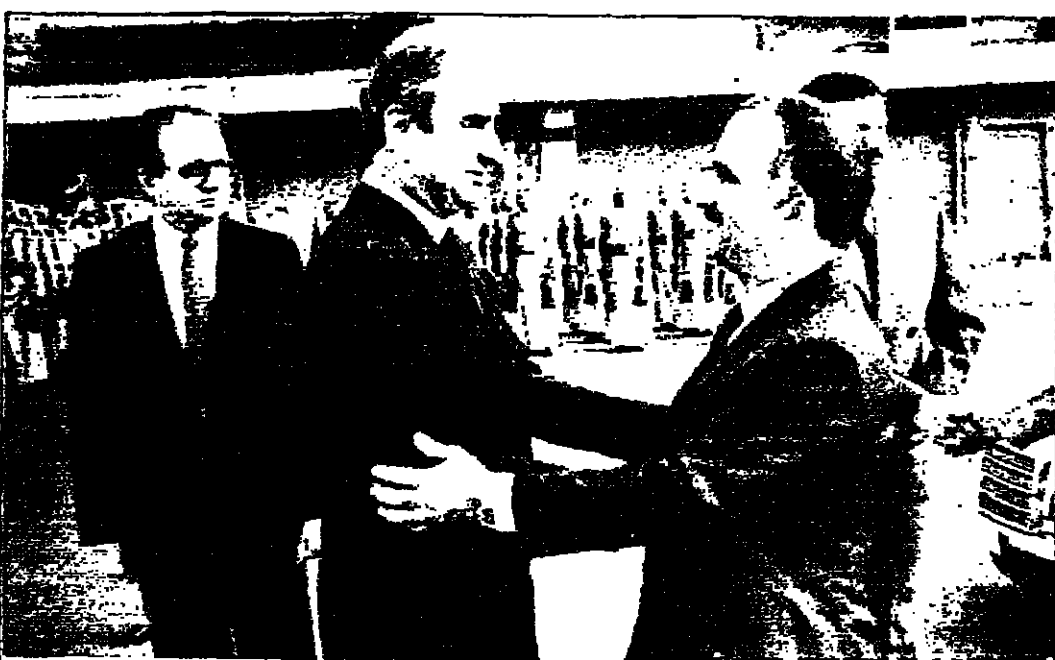
Bab Al Oued was one of the main rallying points for FIS protests in early June against electoral laws it said were unfair. Officials said at least 19 people were killed while Western diplomats put the death toll at between 40 and 50.

FIS activists said that two hours before the police arrived in Bab Al Oued, other security forces arrested several FIS supporters in a night-time swoop.

The FIS won control of more than half Algeria's local authorities last June and said controlling town halls was the first step towards an Islamic state.

FIS officials were not available for comment on the clashes.

Mr. Benjedid on June 5 sacked the government and cancelled general elections due on June 27. His new government, under Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, has promised fair general elections before the end of the year.



PRINCE HASSAN LEAVES FOR BRITAIN: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday left for Britain to attend the graduation of their daughter Rahma from Cambridge University. Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath were seen off at the airport by Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal, Prime Minister Taher Masri and his wife, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and a number of royal family members. He was also seen off by the British charge d'affaires in Amman and senior civil and military officials.

Prince Faisal greets returning military Tae Kwon Do team

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, president of Jordan's Tae Kwon Do Federation, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein received Jordan's military Tae Kwon Do team as it returned home from an international competition in Seoul, South Korea.

The Jordanian team came second in the International Military Tae Kwon Do championship. Prince Faisal conveyed to the Jordanian team the greetings and best wishes for success and progress from His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan.

Upon their arrival, the team members inquired about His Majesty King Hussein's health and were reassured by Prince Faisal of his good health.

The team coach presented Prince Faisal with the cup the team won at the competition.

Taking part in the competition, which was held from June 15 to June 21, were a number of teams from the Soviet Union, United States, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Sudan.

The South Korean team placed first, followed by the Jordanian team.

Yousef Abu Zeid, a Jordanian team member, won a gold medal while fellow team members Firas Jayousi, Ammar Fahd, Nidal Abdul Karim, Ihab Kabarti and Yaser Al Ghazawi won silver medals.

Following the announcement of the results last Friday, Prince Hassan sent a congratulatory cable to the Jordanian team for their performance.

Envoy says Jordanian - Egyptian relations returning to normal

CAIRO (Petra) — Citing the latest telephone conversation between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt, Nabih Al Nimr said that Jordanian-Egyptian relations are now returning to normal.

In a statement to the Egyptian Middle East News Agency, Mr. Nimr said there are Jordanian-Egyptian contacts at different levels, noting that Jordan wants to enhance senior level contacts on all issues of mutual concern.

Mr. Nimr said that the Gulf crisis had a negative impact on the region which we should try to overcome in order to avoid more losses, particularly as the Arab Nation is passing through difficult circumstances requiring all Arab countries to join hands.

"Mr. Nimr referred to the new world order saying that Arabs should have an active role in shaping it.

On Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Mr. Nimr said Jordan was keen on achieving Arab solidarity and was making every possible effort to enhance common Arab work.

On the Jordanian Palestinian relations, Mr. Nimr said that the current stage demanded that "we formulate one opinion, given the circumstances we are now passing through."

Mr. Nimr added Israel of obstructing the efforts being made to establish peace in the Middle East, saying that it insists on keeping the Arab land and denying the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

He called on the international community and the United States to implement the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Palestine and to make sure that international law is respected and adhered to.

He said that the U.S., which has led the world in defending the international legitimacy of Kuwait, should do the same to implement international legitimacy in Palestine if it wanted to maintain its credibility.

Concert series in Amman continues

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — Continuing the series of concerts and recitals which started a couple of months ago in Amman, the Deane-Norberg violin and piano duo will bring music back to life in the city.

Invited by the American Centre in Amman, the duo will also conduct workshops at the National Music Conservatory and the Orthodox Club in cooperation with the National Music Conservatory and Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

The event comes within a special programme initiated a few years ago by the United States Information Agency and called the Artistic Ambassador. The two aspects that distinguish this programme are the fact that the artists are of very high standards and the interaction that they seek, through workshops, lectures or master classes at the local conservatories, music schools and centres they visit.

Derry Deane and Anna Norberg are both professors of music at the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma. With an impressive career covering the conducting of a baby orchestra at the age of three (Derry Deane), classes with celebrities like Nadia Boulanger, and performances in Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi, the two ladies have proven that artists can be working in the academic field and at the same time be very talented performers.

Another special and somewhat different side in the duo's "claim to fame" is their "effort to promote chamber music written by women."

"A fair amount of work by women composers is not played very often," Mrs. Deane says.

The programme to be presented at the Philadelphia Hotel on June 26, includes the Sonata in A major, K305 by Mozart, Allegretto Giusto by Copland, Adagio by Fanny Mendelssohn, Nocturne by Lili Boulanger, three Preludes by Gershwin and the Sonata in D minor Op. 108 by Brahms, a selection which should attract all music lovers in Jordan.

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The Deane-Norberg violin and piano duo (File photo)

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Business life resumes after Eid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Government departments and public institutions Wednesday resumed regular business following a five-day holiday on Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice) which ended this year's pilgrimage season in Mecca and Medina.

The pilgrims who performed Al Haj were reported to have visited Medina following the religious rites in Mecca and were preparing to return home. All Jordanian pilgrims were reported to be well.

Jordan marked the Eid holiday with religious ceremonies held in various parts of the country. The main celebration was organised at Al Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members, ministers and other officials.

The mosque preacher, Izzeddin Al Khatib, addressed the worshippers, urging an end to hatred and disputes among Muslims and adherence to the principles of Islam.

Following the prayers worshippers exchanged greetings with

Prince Hassan on the holy occasion.

The Crown Prince, accompanied by royal family members, visited the tombs of the late King Abdullah and King Talal where they recited verses from the Holy Quran. The tombs were also visited by Prime Minister Taher Al Masri and other officials.

Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Prince Hassan attended a reception at Raghadan Palace where he exchanged greetings and good wishes with visitors, who, among others, included the prime minister, Cabinet members, speakers of Parliament, Parliament members, senior officials and high ranking army officers.

Also in attendance were heads of diplomatic missions, university presidents and representatives of the Christian communities in the Kingdom.

King Hussein received cables of good wishes from Arab and foreign heads of state on the occasion.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attends Eid prayers at Al Hussein Mosque in the company of government officials (Petra photo)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, accompanied by Royal family members, recites verses from the Holy Quran at the tombs of the late King Abdullah and King Talal (Petra photo)

30 killed in Eid accidents

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least 30 Jordanian citizens were killed and many others injured during the Eid Al Adha holiday in road accidents, food poisoning and other incidents, according to public security and Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials.

The main accident was that involving a bus travelling between Zarqa and Irbid. It caused the death of 12 passengers and the injury of 44 others.

A police official spokesman said that the accident happened because of a bursting tyre which made the driver lose control over his vehicle which overturned, falling into a ravine.

The injured were rushed to various hospitals in the region for treatment.

The National Paints Factory in the eastern vicinity of Amman was gutted by fire last Monday, on the third day of Eid Al Adha, and it took civil defence men nearly four hours and numerous fire engines to control the fire and finally extinguish it, according to a CDD spokesman.

He said that the factory was full of paint and other chemical products and inflammable materials which easily caught fire. The spokesman said initial estimates put the factory losses at nearly JD 500,000. He said that the cause of

the fire was not determined yet. He said that three of the civil defence men and one civilian sustained slight injuries and burns during the fire fighting operations.

The CDD spokesman said that the paint factory fire was the biggest of its kind in Jordan, but added that warehouses containing chemical materials remained intact thanks to the speedy and effective efforts of the fire fighters.

Police and CDD spokesmen said that the 70 per cent of the death casualties were children below 10 years of age. Hospital sources said that a total of 7,578 people, mostly children, were admitted for treatment for food poisoning, burns, injuries resulting from falling from high places.

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Happy feast—no fine

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speeding motorists and other minor traffic law violators received a different treat from traffic police during the first two days of the Eid Al Adha holiday.

Several motorists reported being stopped on highways for speeding and receiving cards with "happy feast" written on them, instead of fines for their minor violations. Of course, polite words of warning accompanied the danger of speeding.

A welcome approach; let us hope we will have more of the kind.

RJ, Aeroflot agree on students' ticket purchasing

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Soviet airlines Aeroflot and Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, have reached an agreement under which Jordanian students studying in Soviet universities can pay for their tickets in roubles.

An RJ statement said that Aeroflot had demanded that Jordanian students pay in hard currency for their air tickets. The demand briefly caused a suspension of RJ flights from and to Moscow.

The Jordan news agency, Petra, said RJ resumed its flights to Moscow on June 17 following a visit to Moscow by an RJ team which worked out the agreement.

An RJ official told the Jordan Times that the carrier normally operates one weekly flight to Moscow, between June and September, while Aeroflot operates one weekly flight throughout the year. The official said that the operations were not affected in any way and RJ and Aeroflot were operating their flights normally.

Petra quoted the RJ statement as saying that Aeroflot had agreed that Jordanian students pay their fare in roubles, but gave no other details.

According to the statement, RJ was keen on reaching the agreement with Aeroflot in view of the fact that the students were preparing to return to Jordan for the summer holiday and the Soviet airline's decision complicated their plans.

The official said that the new arrangement would remain valid until further notice.

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Soviet official praises Jordan's policy, stand

MOSCOW (Petra) — Jordan's principled stand during the recent war and its present position regarding the peace process has earned His Majesty King Hussein appreciation from the Soviet people and its officials, according to a senior Soviet official.

Speaking at a dinner to honour Upper House of Parliament member Bahjat Al Talhouni, Rafiq Nishanov, former Soviet ambassador to Jordan, said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev praised King Hussein's stand during the Gulf crisis. The policy earned King Hussein a unique position as an experienced statesman, Mr. Nishanov said.

President Gorbachev, in praising Jordan, also asked Mr. Nishanov to convey his greetings to King Hussein and the Jordanian people.

In a reply speech, Mr. Talhouni, who serves as president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, said that Jordan follows a firm, clear-cut policy towards the peace efforts. He conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein to President Gorbachev and the Soviet people.

Mr. Talhouni held talks with President of the Soviet Friendship Societies Valentina Tereshkova and Dr. Nicolai Trupin, chairman of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society. Mr. Talhouni also spoke with senior Foreign Ministry officials about the need for further developing Jordanian-Soviet relations.

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Abbadi visits Al Bashir Hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi Saturday paid an inspection visit to Al Bashir Hospital to get first hand information on the health services provided by the hospital.

He concentrated on arrangements for receiving patients during the Eid holiday.

Dr. Abbadi inspected the internal diseases, first aid and opera-

tions sections of the hospital. He also met with patients and congratulated them on the Eid and wished them a speedy recovery.

Dr. Abbadi praised the efforts made by doctors, nurses and health workers at the hospital and urged them to continue to work hard in order to alleviate the suffering of patients.

Refuge found for stranded Iranians

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sweden has agreed to accept 30 Iranians displaced from Iraq during the Gulf crisis and the subsequent war and the asylum-seekers, now stranded in Jordan, are expected to leave for their new home soon, a senior U.N. official said Tuesday.

The expected departure of 30 Iranians will leave about 20 more refugees and efforts are under way to find refuge for them, said Carl Vonseth, head of mission in Jordan of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Mr. Vonseth, a Swede, said Sweden's acceptance of some of the refugees was relayed to UNHCR a few days after some of them staged a protest sit-in at the agency's offices demanding their cases be immediately addressed.

Some of the Iranians, who are accommodated at the Andalus transit camp near the airport, arrived here during the run-up to the Gulf war in January and others in the course of and after the war, which ended in late February with Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

It was believed that some of them were members of the Iranian opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq movement based in Iraq, but Mujahadeen spokesman denied that any member of the rebel group had sought political asylum through UNHCR.

Prior to the beginning of the Gulf crisis in August 1990, statistics showed that around 60,000 Iranians were living in Iraq. Many of them were affiliated with the Mujahadeen, some with other Iranian dissident movements, but there were also others who had fled their country in the wake of the Islamic revolution there in 1979 and had declined to join any political group. They were living in camps near the cities

of Najaf and Karbala in southern Iraq, and many of them fled the internal Shiite unrest that hit the two cities after the war.

About 2,000 Iranians are believed to have left Iraq during the crisis and the war. The Mujahadeen — estimated to number around 20,000 — still maintain their bases in Iraq.

Mr. Vonseth said Tuesday that about 250 people of various nationalities remained in Jordan seeking UNHCR help. Around 150 of them are Somalis and the rest include Sudanese and Eritreans. Almost all of the Somalis arrived here from Kuwait in August, shortly after the Iraqi take-over of the emirate.

A group of 150 Somalis was flown to northern Somalia in May after the security situation in the civil war-hit country improved. Some of those remaining in Jordan can return to their country, depending on availability of flights to northern Somalia, but about 40 others pose a "difficult problem," Mr. Vonseth said.

Those who have already left or are about to leave are from northern Somalia, where the mainstream Somali National Movement (SNM) proclaimed an independent state after toppling the regime of President Mohammad Siad Barre earlier this year.

"But about 40 others are from the southern parts of Somalia and they cannot immediately return there" because of the unclear security situation, Mr. Vonseth said.

Some of the Somalis have received "authorisation to return to Kuwait," and arrangements are being made for their passage to the emirate, he added. Others are waiting to join their families in Britain and Canada.

Dozens of Iraqis who were displaced from Kuwait during the crisis have also approached UNHCR for help, but they do not qualify as refugees under UNHCR parameters.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showq Shoukhal, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifqi Al Razzaz at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation 18 a.m. — 8 p.m.
- ★ Photo exhibition by Hans Richter at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Poster exhibition at the British Council.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Najwa Amah at the Spanish Cultural Centre between June 17-30.

Australian official arrives

AMMAN — A senior Australian Foreign Ministry official arrived here Monday for a two-day visit to discuss bilateral relations with Parliamentarians and members of the business community.

Michael Landale, director of the Middle Eastern and African departments at the Australian Foreign Ministry, is on a tour of Arab capitals which include Riyadh and Damascus.

Landale is expected to be briefed on Jordan's political and economic status. He is also expected to discuss Australian interests in the Kingdom.

KLM back to Amman

In cooperation with Cyprus Airways, the first KLM flight departed Queen Alia International Airport today from Amman to Amsterdam.

This joint co-operation is a component of KLM's strategy of increasing the frequency of its flights.

The agreement signed on June 6 is a first step toward long term co-operation between KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Cyprus Airways.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Next comes the plan

JUST BEFORE the 'Eid Al Adha holiday, and in the wake of the formation of the new government, political pundits raised a legal-political question: Should the Masri cabinet draw a programme and submit it to Parliament for a vote of confidence? The coming few days/weeks will certainly clear the issue. For now, however, this government, like any other before it, must translate the King's letter of appointment into a plan for action that is clear for all to see. Ministers should not be expected, as one former prime minister is reported to have told his colleagues, to solve problems at their ministries as they find fit. Problems plaguing the economy, for example, affect everything from trade to tourism, industry to foreign affairs, and education to health.

It has been long established that the ministers of health and education, to name only two, have always agonised over lack of funds to improve the services provided by their ministries. These are very vital services to the population and to the well-being of the country as a whole. Unless funds are made available where they are most needed, often at the expense of those who least need them, the economy will continue to suffer and socio-economic problems will compound. Therefore, unless the government draws bold, but bold, programme and go about implementing it immediately, it will be difficult for it to reach successful conclusions.

Both frustrations and expectations by our people are indeed high. People yearn for change, and the only way to change the apathy by which they greet every new government is to prove that the new team is not like any old one. Like one seasoned observer put it: To be in power does not mean you hold it. Only through generating power, the power of change, can any government get the genuine support and participation of the people.

The country faces a multitude of problems: Political, social, economic, educational, agricultural... etc. What is needed is to build upon the King's directives and devise an integrated plan that would address each of the problems individually and all of them collectively. In no time in the Kingdom's history has this choice become more stark.

Top on the agenda of the government there is an urgent need for administrative reforms. These entail first and foremost the decentralisation of government. This foregone conclusion was reached many years ago, yet very little action was ever taken on it. Decentralisation is a symbol of democracy. Unless people at all levels are given back the authority they were deprived of to determine their own fate, people will always want to depend on the government to solve their problems. Local communities, that in the past used to effectively manage their affairs, should again be given the chance to do so likewise, state intervention in the life of the individual should be reviewed. People must be accorded the freedom they acquired at birth, to choose freely what to do with minimum interference from the state. The benefits of delegating central authority to local government have proved to be of critical value to progress. The contrary has proved disastrous in many countries, notably the Soviet Union.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i said that the Eid Al Adha feast found the Arabs and Muslims in dire need of regaining self-confidence and solidarity as well as collective action in dealing with the common challenges. The paper said that it is high time for the Arabs and Muslims to put their homes in order, forget the past differences and forego the side issues. It is time for the Kuwaitis to be tolerant and end the injustices being committed against their Jordanian and Palestinian brothers, and to consider Eid Al Adha as the starting point of a new chapter in Arab history, the paper said. Arabs and Muslims are all invited to end the rifts in their ranks and heal the wounds caused by the Gulf crisis; and above all construct bridges of understanding without allowing the past misfortunes to adversely affect the future, the paper continued. On the anniversary of Eid Al Adha, Muslims tend to remember Jerusalem which embodies the third holiest shrines for Islam and remember the oppressed people and the injustice befalling them under occupation, the paper said. The paper reminded Muslims and Arabs that they can by no means acquire a status within the new world order unless they work seriously towards rebuilding their solidarity based on mutual confidence and respect.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says with the formation of a new government headed by Taher Masri rumours in town spread that the Jordanians and Palestinians now intend to form a joint delegation for the coming negotiations with Israel. Mahmoud Rimawi said that though such predictions could be correct, yet one should realise that the formation of delegations is a mere procedure, but the substance lies with the question of Israel respecting U.N. Security Council resolutions and implementing them by withdrawing from the occupied territories. The writer notes that Jordanians and Palestinians have common goals and one destiny; and it is not surprising if they form a joint delegation to negotiate a settlement that would safeguard Arab rights. However, the question of future unity or confederation between Palestine and Jordan lies with the two peoples themselves who will be free to choose their future relations and governments, the writer points out. The writer expresses the view that regardless of the personality at the head of the government, this country can only adhere to the collective stand with regard to safeguarding the Arab rights through a just settlement based on the exchange of land for peace and withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab land.

Regional security in the Gulf: Curbing the dynamics of the arms race

By Yezid Sayigh

THE need to prevent armed conflict, whether by controlling the means of waging it or by deterring its outbreaks, is obviously a pressing imperative in the Middle East. It is made all the more urgent by the appalling civil war in Iraq and the prospects of further regional instability which that strife raises, as well as by the persistence of other more long-standing threats. However, the issue and its solutions are not clear-cut a mechanical approach that treats the military dimension as a practical or technical problem, in isolation of root causes and political tensions at both domestic and regional levels, risks placing the cart before the horse.

That said, there are three main categories of military issues that affect the search for regional security: prevention — deployment of peacekeeping forces for early warning and "trip-wire" purposes, establishment of "hot-lines" and advance notification procedures of manoeuvres and troop movements to avoid accidental conflict; deterrence — deployment of outside forces or conclusion of defence and military assistance pacts, possession of non-conventional weapons or acquisition of advanced conventional systems; and arms control and/or disarmament, affecting NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) and conventional weapons and other areas of military technology or related industrial transfer.

Of the foregoing, preventive measures can only be based on agreement between the contracting parties if they are to be effective, and so appear as technical details that refine an established security arrangement. Deterrence is more contentious, since it presupposes continued tension or latent conflict with one or more regional actors, who are excluded from the arrangements proposed by the other side. Thus it only underscores the potency of political and strategic issues that

act as problems and threat rather than as the basis for promoting cooperation.

The third category, arms control and disarmament, best highlights the connection between prevention and deterrence or, more precisely, the linkage between the military and political dimensions of security. Indeed, in many respects the debate about ways and means of suspending, or even reversing, the regional conventional arms build-up and the race to acquire NBC weapons and ballistic missiles is set to become paramount, both as a military issue and as a predominantly political one.

Obstacles to arms controls

The most obvious instances of the complicating political-military linkage is the Arab-Israeli arena, the current focus on the Gulf and Iraq notwithstanding. For Israel, insecurity has been a prime driving force not only of conventional arms development but also of its clandestine nuclear (and possibly biological and chemical) weapons, ballistic missile and space programmes. In turn, this has fuelled Arab concern about the strategic balance and prompted counter-efforts to develop non-conventional weapons and their means of delivery, the most recent and public example being Iraq.

At one level, therefore, the Western focus on dismantling the Iraqi NBC and missile infrastructure misses an important part of the point when it ignores the far superior Israeli capability and dismisses Arab calls for making disarmament both reciprocal and across the NBC board. At another level, Israel and other Arab states (including Syria and Egypt) will neither curb their military development nor disarm unilaterally. Indeed, they will not even countenance a multilateral approach, such as a nuclear weapons-free zone (NWFZ), without a wide-ranging and comprehensive settlement of their outstanding complaints and concerns, which above all means

obtaining a negotiated peace involving territorial concessions by, and security guarantees for, Israel.

Important as it may be — even central in the post-Gulf war period — the Arab-Israeli dimension is not the only factor. Were it so, then it might be easier to argue that enforcing Iraqi disarmament (and similar controls on other Arab states, for that matter) without rigorously pursuing controls on Israeli NBC efforts need not necessarily prove destabilising, because Israeli behaviour could supposedly be moderated by the U.S. In reality, however, there are other contributors to the dynamic of regional military competition.

An evident example is the balance between Iraq and Iran. Late in the first Gulf war the latter country revived its nuclear research programme — launched under the shah but suspended by the advent of the Islamic revolution in 1979 — and redoubled its ballistic missile development effort. This is a potential threat that neither Iraq nor Saudi Arabia and the other GCC members can ignore. Aiming to reduce their vulnerability would only threaten Israel, though, thus restarting the escalatory spiral.

Impact of state interests

Limiting the focus to conventional weapons is no less complicated. Major arms suppliers, especially in the West, will find it extremely difficult to restrict military transfers to their allies in the region, assuming they ever seriously consider doing so. Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia will remain principal recipients of arms sales to the Middle East, given their security circumstances, and proven loyalty; indeed, all three countries have benefited from new deals with the U.S. since August 1990.

Justifying his country's policy, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker explained that the Gulf crisis had "point(ed) up the fact that there is a necessity for these

countries to be able to defend themselves, and that they can defend themselves with weapons sold by the U.S." However, he added that this should be done "in a way that does not become a threat to Israel, provided we recognise and remain committed to our commitment to Israel's qualitative advantage."

Pursuing arms sales to Western/American allies in the Middle East may be justified officially on the grounds that no one of the recipients is likely to attack its neighbours, but even then such an argument is inherently political: it accepts the status quo and sidelines the demands of other actors, and so it enables the chosen recipients to maintain selfish policies. Israeli occupation of Arab land and denial of Palestinian rights being the foremost case in point. It also ignores the fact that local leaders might entertain regional ambitions, which would be enhanced by acquisition of advanced weaponry even if it was not actively employed. In all cases, a continued flow of arms will reinforce the marked military imbalances of the region, with attendant risks of restarting the arms race.

The risks are very real. Although the U.S., Britain and France have long been the leading arms suppliers to the Middle East, along with the USSR, there is substantial scope for smaller producers to export weaponry to countries that are supposedly under controls. China is an important example, but a host of other countries are also involved in the arms trade, ranging from North Korea and South Africa, through Brazil, Switzerland and Austria, to the Netherlands and Germany.

More significantly, although the USSR is likely to participate in collective control regimes, particularly in the NBC and ballistic missile spheres, it will probably prove more reticent concerning conventional weapons limitations if it feels that Western restrictions

are one-sided. In such a situation, the USSR would seek the political and commercial rewards of proving itself sensitive to the basic defence needs of such Arab states as Syria and Iraq. Nor should the need of Eastern European economies to export arms be overlooked in this context. Already, Czechoslovakia has insisted on going ahead with the planned sale of at least 300 T-72 tanks to Syria, and is to upgrade a trainer aircraft with Israeli help.

...and private interests

The foregoing treats the issue of arms controls as if it were a straightforward matter of government policy, but this is an unjustified assumption. In reality, the agendas of specific interest groups influence decision-making considerably, as the cases of the pro-Israeli lobby and the military, industrial and business communities (who back Saudi sales) in the U.S. demonstrate. As importantly, the scale of financial gains from arms sales will continue to influence Western (and other) governments and to attract private companies keen on earning large profits.

An equally powerful incentive operates on the receiving side too. Arms deals are one of the most lucrative sources of commissions in the Middle East, along with oil and construction contracts, and so the temptation to exploit a government position for personal gain remains large. Such exploitation of political power is most obvious in the Saudi case, where reportedly the convention is for middlemen to earn up to a fifth of the value of contracts, though similar practices occur in Egypt and other Arab countries. Nor is Israel exempt: a recent scandal involving the air force's head of acquisitions revealed major embezzlement. Transparency — declaration of all arms deals by both supplier and recipient — could be one way of curbing arms sales driven by the profit motive.

Political key to arms controls

The purpose of these com-

ments is to inject a dose of realism into armchair proposals for arms controls and to temper self-righteousness among their proponents. And even given the political will, thorny practical questions arise: should limitations be discriminatory or not, by country or weapon category? A blanket embargo on all arms sales to a specific country may be undermined because it may not adequately control third-country transfers or transactions by private companies, especially those involved in transferring technology and components for use by recipient industries. Conversely, a discriminatory regime might be more effective in such categories as NBC weapons, and ballistic missiles, because associated transfers can be more closely monitored and regulated at source, though it might prove inherently destabilising by perpetuating Israeli nuclear hegemony and Arab insecurity.

Once again, the interlocking nature of the problems and the dynamic interaction between sub-regions and parallel security concerns across the Middle East suggest that a comprehensive, politically based outlook is necessary for an effective halt to the regional arms race. This is not to suggest that arms controls (of other security-enhancing military measures) must wait on solutions to intractable political conflicts. Rather, having noted the debilitating effect of short-sighted self-interest and partisanship on the commitment of outside suppliers to real controls, the argument here is that the active interaction of the political and military dimensions of security must be acknowledged in the policy proposals put forward for the region. Whether dealt with simultaneously, or in tandem, and in whatever order, arms controls in both the conventional and non-conventional spheres have to be linked to the resolution of the fundamental political issues. Security can only be an integral whole. — Middle East International, London.

Suppliers to seek arms sale standards for Middle East

By Norma Holmes
USIA

WASHINGTON — When the United States and the other major Middle East arms suppliers meet in Paris in July, they will not seek to ban arms sales "but to define standards for sales" in the region, a senior Bush administration official told Congress June 17.

John H. Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, said the United States "seek to bring some transparency into the process" of arms transfers, "so that we'll all know what's going on all countries." Kelly was testifying on the situation in the Middle East before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

Kelly said France, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and China accepted the idea of a conference in Paris "to discuss limitations on conventional armaments in the Middle East and on trying to get a handle on the weapons of mass destruction."

He said the United States is the only country where there is a public notification process and public debate on arms sales and "it would be worthwhile to see that extended to the other nations."

Discussing other developments in the Middle East, Kelly said that "some headway" has been made in the peace process. He said that all parties have agreed that:

— a conference to launch direct negotiations should be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338; — the objective of this effort would be to establish a comprehensive settlement in the area; — the United States and the Soviet Union would co-chair the kickoff conference; — negotiations on the occupied territories would be in two phases: the first will deal with interim self-governing arrangements; the second will deal with the final status of the occupied territories.

— the conference that begins the process would not have the authority to impose its views on the parties or dictate to the parties, or interfere in the negotiations.

Kelly said there is also "general agreement" that Palestinians would be represented by people

from the occupied territories who "accept the phased approach, who accept the idea of negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours and who accept to live in peace with Israel."

"We're still waiting to see what the outcome is going to be on the questions of United Nations' role and the question of whether or not the conference would be able to reconvene," he said.

Kelly said the Gulf States announced that they would participate individually in the multilateral negotiations with Israel on regional issues, and that they will send the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council as an observer to the conference.

"The Jordanian government and the King have expressed strong interest in participating in a conference, assuming that one comes about," Kelly said. "They have not placed specific separate conditions on the holding of such a conference, but they have indicated that they would — that they support the same positions that other Arab states have been taking," Kelly said.

Questioned about the widely reported human rights abuses in post-war Kuwait, Kelly said President Bush has discussed this issue with the Emir of Kuwait and expressed "our strong desire that Kuwait, which has benefited so much from the support of the international community, live up to the highest human rights standards."

The United States has been "disappointed" that human rights abuses have happened, Kelly said, stressing that "we hold the government, which is headed by the prime minister, who is the crown prince, responsible." Kelly said the United States has told the government of Kuwait that "the ability of the United States to provide security support or any other support for Kuwait will depend on how they manage to enhance human rights and the democratic process there in Kuwait."

He said both the Emir, and the crown prince are on record that human rights abuses "have got to stop and they've got to improve."

Questioned on prospects for democracy in post-war Kuwait, Kelly noted that the Emir and the prime minister have announced elections for October of 1992 and have called for the National Council, which was elected last June as an advisory group to the Emir and the government, to meet next month to prepare for elections.

Questioned on U.S. relations with post-war Iraq by Subcommittee Chairman Lee Hamilton (Democrat of Indiana), Kelly stated that Iraqi violations of U.N. resolutions include:

— a public statement made through their claim to Kuwait; — the detention of 3,000 Kuwaitis;

— continuing to hold billions of dollars of stolen Kuwaiti property;

— inadequate disclosure of their internally held assets;

— inadequate disclosure of their weapons of mass destruction;

— summary trials and sentencing of two British businessmen after U.N. resolutions ordered the release of all third-country nationals.

Iraq has made no commitment to renounce terrorism, Kelly said.

Overall, Iraq has "grudgingly complied" with the sanctions in cases where the international community has had appropriate information to require compliance, Kelly said.

Kelly said the United States has "no current plan to reestablish diplomatic relations with Iraq" and favours keeping the U.N. sanctions against Iraq in place so long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

He suggested, however, that sanctions could be changed, at the discretion of the Security Council, if the United States were "persuaded" that Iraq is prepared to donate a percentage of its oil earnings yet to be set by the Security Council for humanitarian purposes. Medicines, he pointed out, "have always been permitted," as are food shipments, subject to notification of the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

Dutch face six months in spotlight with EC presidency

By Christopher Wilson
Reuters

THE HAGUE — Dutch officials like to refer to their country's position within the European Community as "the biggest of the small and the smallest of the big."

It is an ambivalent and vaguely self-deprecating description.

But the Netherlands is looking forward to a boost in status when it assumes the EC's rotating presidency and steps into the international spotlight at a time when Europe is hurtling towards creation of the world's largest single market.

For six months, from July 1 to December 31, the Dutch will be "in the chair." The Netherlands will speak for Europe on the world stage, helping to fashion compromises and to bridge political and economic policy divisions among the EC's very different 12 member states.

"The presidency has certain advantages and disadvantages," said Big Itha, a senior Dutch foreign ministry official. "You have more power, but you can't push your own (national) view; point too hard."

The Dutch presidency comes at a critical time in Europe's history.

The next six months should see the completion of two pivotal treaties, on European political union and economic and monetary union (EMU), which will transform the community.

"If the treaties are signed, the Dutch will be able to claim credit as the chief architects of European monetary and political union," said Theo Huxtin, the European Commission's representative in the Hague.

Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers told foreign correspondents last month: "The Dutch presidency must really do its utmost to bring European monetary union and political union to its conclusion before the end of the year. If we are not able to do so, it will be seen as a very negative thing."

In some ways, the Dutch seem ill-placed to forge a compromise because their own very strong views are often fiercely opposed within the community.

On defence, the Dutch are fervent Atlanticists surpassing even Britain in their opposition to attempts to create a European defence pillar that might undermine the role of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation).

And as self-appointed cham-

pions of the smaller EC nations, they are extremely suspicious of any attempt to replace traditional EC mechanisms for decision-making with a looser, inter-governmental arrangement.

Smaller countries fear being steam-rollered by deals between the larger countries if the EC's strict procedural rules do not apply.

The tough Dutch stance stems partly from anger over last year's decision to locate the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London and appoint Frenchman Jacques Attali as its president.

Although it was not strictly an EC issue, the community controls more than half of the bank's shares. The Netherlands has lobbied hard to have the bank in Amsterdam and former Finance Minister Onno Rubing as its head.

In the political union debate, the Hague has argued forcefully against the structure of a draft treaty which separates a future common foreign and security policy from normal community policy.

It is also pressing the cause of the European Commission, which proposes and implements normal EC business. Smaller countries each appoint one of the 17 commissioners, while larger countries appoint two.

Although the commissioners are sworn to protect EC interests rather than those of their country, the small nations feel their interests are better protected by the commission than by the Euro-

pean Parliament or the council of ministers where voting is more closely tied to the relative size of countries.

The Dutch also agree with Germany that the European Parliament, as the only EC institution whose members are directly elected, should have more power over legislation. At present, its role is mainly advisory.

"If you gave control powers to the European Parliament, it might make it a more effective institution," said one Dutch official. "But we don't want to increase the parliament's powers to the detriment of the EC Commission."

The Dutch have rallied some support recently over the structure of the draft treaty on political union, with a majority of countries keen to see that any inter-governmental arrangements are strictly limited.

"We don't need to have a perfect treaty. But if positions keep moving as they have been, I think we will have a satisfactory treaty," said Dutch official.

After months of argument, a compromise is also in sight on monetary union. Britain, which still opposes a single European currency and the establishment of a European central bank to set monetary policy, has been allowed the loophole of reserving its position.

But Germany in particular is insisting that the two treaties must be approved together, and securing unanimous support for both by the December summit in Maastricht will not be easy task.



European Community Now

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171



Built for 700,000, Algiers row house 3 million people (File photo)

By John Baggaley
Reuters

Algerian capital fixes make-up but still looks ravaged

ALGIERS — Like an aristocratic old lady fallen on hard times and vulnerable to mugging, the capital of Algeria is redoing its make-up. It has little hope of permanent rejuvenation.

The tear gas canisters fired to disperse massive protests by Islamic fundamentalists earlier this month have gone — souvenirs for the young men who rushed round giving people cotton pads soaked in vinegar to counteract the acid fumes.

In the main thoroughfares, dominated by graceful French style buildings overlooking the bay of Algiers, rubbish collectors are busy tackling dumps of rotting debris.

"It wasn't always like this. Even two or three years ago Algiers was one of the cleanest cities in North Africa," said one regular visitor.

"It could be the most beautiful place," he added, pointing to trees carefully planted on the terraces between the sea and the city heights. Their trunks were scarred when barricades were carelessly torn apart after the unrest.

It was the third time in three decades that the capital had suffered violent assault.

For eight years up to 1962 the city was a military and political

battleground as Algerians fought for independence from France. Riots in October 1988 brought sudden death, damage and widespread looting.

In the latest upheaval, a political strike to back the Muslim radicals, putrid fruit and meat, the detritus of daily life in an overcrowded city, grew in menacing mountains. The people of Algiers ignored appeals to put politics aside and help move it to street corners for collection.

Only the cats enjoyed the scattered harvest and, as the smell intensified and the temperature rose, the press sounded alarm over possible epidemics.

"Algiers under garbage: Beware cholera," warned the main headline of the newspaper Le Quotidien D'Algerie early in June.

The latest crisis eased after President Chadli Benjedid called in the army and the Islamic Salvation Front, the main opposition party, called off the strike.

The army reinforced briefly on Friday, fearing violence after

prayers. But crowds dispersed peacefully past alert troops, bayonets glinting in the afternoon sun.

Today in sidewalk cafes, the politically conscious discuss Algeria's advance towards democracy or an Islamic state, and wonder if either will end the current austerity.

Strapped for cash, the authorities are making slow progress in efforts to beautify the capital.

The central post office, its grand entrance arches supported by slender pillars, has recently been repainted gleaming white.

Across the road, work proceeds on the Arab World's second underground railway, after Cairo. Tonnes of earth a day are ripped from deep in the ground. A marble staircase and a clonaded walkway are already complete, awaiting the first crowds.

The workmen mostly ignored the street protests but occasionally they had to abandon crane, bulldozer and lorry to take cover as stray tear gas grenades landed on the site.

Those lumps were insignificant. Work on the metro, first planned in the 1980s, did not start until November 1988 and it is

expected to be at least another six years before trains run.

Explosive population growth threatens to choke Algiers. Built for around 700,000 it is now home to a vast throng, with estimates ranging from two to three million.

At night, far from the spacious homes of the wealthy or diplomatic corps, groups of youths and men chat on street corners, preferring the air to overcrowded apartments.

Balconies, jammed with the curious during the unrest, carry lines laden with washing, testimony to the numbers behind the windows. Families are reported living in stairwells and cellars.

By day, leaning against still elegant but shabby buildings, beggars and the unemployed packed listlessly as car drivers and packed buses pursue their daily struggle.

"What has happened to the immaculate whiteness of our towns," asked the evening newspaper Horizon earlier this month. It recalled the capital's old sobriquet "Algiers the white," but added that the Mediterranean city no longer had any right to it.

Al Dustour's chief editor wants media to tackle local issues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The newly appointed chief editor of a Jordanian Arabic-language daily is a career-diplomat-turned journalist who believes that there is a lot of room for improvement in the Jordanian print media towards increased focus on domestic issues rather than pan-Arab nationalist affairs.

"Our newspapers have always been preoccupied with issues of a pan-Arab nature at the expense of local issues," according to Dr. Musa Keilani, who was formally named chief editor of Al Dustour in April after serving the publication as managing editor since August last year. "I believe that it is our duty as press to prompt our people to turn more inwards and address domestic issues as priority," he maintains.

"It is high time that we gave utmost attention to the Jordanian agenda rather than a pan-Arab agenda. We have to uproot the inhibitions built up over the past 40 years and increase the democratic awareness of our people."

In conversations with friends and colleagues, Dr. Keilani, who has served as Jordan's ambassador to Bahrain and Sudan in the 1970s and early 1980s after joining the foreign ministry in 1965, also makes it a point to defend Al Dustour against charges that the daily has been overcautious in approaching Jordanian internal politics and controversial issues lest it might incur the wrath of certain political groups and that it also favours an Islamic trend.

His arguments become more relevant when seen in light of an observation by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan that Jordanian newspaper editors were not courageous enough to tackle some of the issues — mainly those related to education — in their right perspective.

Dr. Keilani maintains that Al Dustour performed its role in focusing attention on what it as "unhealthy, unconstructive" policies of the former education minister. "But we thought against overkill since it would have been detrimental to bringing out change and could have serious repercussions on a national level."

"Al Dustour has always been open to all lines of thoughts and ideologies," he argues. "We have also followed a policy of extending evenly balanced space for rival thoughts and conflicting views," says the chief editor of the daily, which is seen by many readers as treading a very careful path when it comes to issues related to Islamist groups.

Many critics say that Al Dustour preferred to report news related to policy implementation of Muslim Brotherhood ministers on an isolated event-to-event approach rather than presenting them in a wider framework of what were widely seen as Brotherhood moves to institute its own brand of Islamic practices in the Jordanian society.

Dr. Keilani, a leading Jordanian expert on Islamic religious fundamentalism in the region who has written extensively on the subject in local papers — including the Jordan Times in 1984, 1985 and 1986 — believes that the lingering Arab-Israeli conflict and Israel's continued oppression of the people in the occupied territories against "a state of Arab helplessness" have contributed significantly to the growth of fundamentalist trends in the Arab World.

The former diplomat is also a harsh critic of "irresponsible behaviour of some people in encouraging cross-border attacks against Israel by ill-trained, scantily-armed teenagers in the name of jihad."



Musa Keilani

"What we are losing is the potential of our youth to be trained and be committed to the cause in a realistic way," he maintains. "In effect, encouraging youngsters to undertake reckless suicidal actions is like cutting down sapplings before they could grow and produce fruits."

Dr. Keilani, who obtained his doctorate degree in English literature from the University of Cairo, advocates a three-pronged approach to coverage of local events. "We have to devote ourselves to familiarising the reader with the immediate issues of life, then towards increasing the awareness of democracy, political pluralism and fundamental freedoms and then to instilling a heightened realisation of his or her human rights," he says.

Dr. Keilani, who has also served as head of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and Jordan Television and Radio as well as the Press and Publication Department of the Ministry of Information, believes that poverty and low living standards in the rural and outlying regions have not been given the priority they deserve. "Also, ecological issues are of major importance and Al Dustour has indeed taken the lead in exposing many shortcomings in this respect in Jordan," he asserts.

Keilani says he welcomes the new set of press and publication laws which are expected to be formalised soon. "For the first time, the law creates a higher council for press with the inclusion of the speaker of the Upper House and an Upper House member, the minister of information and the two senior-most judges in the 'Shari'ah," he said. "The very presence of the judges in the council will be very much reassuring to journalists that their rights would be protected within the framework of law," he explained.

Also, he says, the new law acknowledges the status of journalists of those Jordanians who have experience with the media outside Jordan. "Earlier, only those with experience in the local media were acknowledged as journalists in the Jordanian definition of the profession," he said.

According to Dr. Keilani, the licensing of new newspapers and magazines under the fresh set of regulations will contribute to bringing about a "healthier media atmosphere in Jordan." At the same time, he argues that there is also plenty of room for such publications in Jordan and their emergence and readership will not be at the expense of the already established newspapers in the country.

"The circulation and readership of new publications will be limited," he predicts in a direct reference to the expectation that new newspapers and magazines will be published of various political groupings. "For wider and broader news coverage, the average reader will always turn to his or her regular daily — Al Rai, Al Dustour or Sawt Al Shaab — the case may be," he asserts.

PLO ready for joint delegation

(Continued from page 1)

did not do much to press it," said one Palestinian analyst.

Mr. Hourani's statement about a joint delegation has so far not been reflected in a resolution or official declaration by the PLO leadership as in the debate in Palestinian circle was still continuing, over the issue. It seems that the appointment of Mr. Masri, who comes from a prominent Palestinian family, has caused concern among some PLO officials that Washington will view the development as a signal to pave the way for the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without the PLO.

Another PLO official, who asked not to be named, said that the organisation takes Jordan's word that it will stand by the PLO in support of separate representation. But that Jordan will seek a joint delegation as an alternative if a separate Palestinian delegation proved to be an obstacle to the peace process, he said.

The appointment of Masri

has also intensified the debate here and in Tunis over the issue of Palestinian participation.

Some officials argue that the form — whether a separate participation, unified Arab delegation or a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team — will become secondary if there is a clear Arab commitment and international, especially American, acceptance of the PLO's role.

But others, including the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), argue that the PLO should insist on separate representation since the other alternative excludes the PLO. "What is in the offering, although we were practically offered nothing, is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and not a joint Jordanian-PLO team. We insist on separate representation," said Saji Salameh, member of the DFLP political bureau.

Another group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by Dr. George Habash maintains the same position, but is ready to reconsider if the PLO was part

of delegation on equal footing with Jordan.

PFLP officials also accuse Washington of evading the issue of an Israeli withdrawal by concentrating on the form of Palestinian participation.

"There is a confusion, sometimes a deliberate one, between the form and the substance. We have to refocus the attention on the substance... of the talks including the PLO representative role, Palestinian national rights and Israeli withdrawal from in accordance with the United Nations resolutions," said Abdul Rahim Malouh, member of the PFLP's political bureau.

According to Mr. Hourani, the U.S. is behaving as if there has been a consensus among all parties concerned to exclude the PLO.

"The worst part, however, is that some Arab countries behave as if the exclusion of the PLO has been, universally accepted and is not even subject to debate," said Mr. Hourani.

He did not elaborate. But in

recent press statements Mr. Hourani has been outspoken in his criticism of Gulf states' policies, especially their acceptance to take part in a regional peace conference including Israel.

Meanwhile the debate within the PLO continues. According to sources there are some senior officials who have been pressing for a PLO "acceptance of the American scenario," ("PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat is not convinced or influenced by this trend," a well-placed source said.

According to Mr. Malouh, the PLO objective should be to thwart the American objectives by presenting a clearer Palestinian and Arab strategy based on United Nations resolutions.

Palestinian sources expected consultations between Jordan and the PLO to pick up momentum soon. The Jordan Times has learned that senior PLO officials, from various groups, have been in touch with Mr. Masri as part of the traditional visits during Eid.

Jordan denies violating sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

he said.

Dr. Badran also said Jordan may pay more in the future for bargain Iraqi oil it receives in repayment of debt.

"It is not certain we will continue to pay the price we have been paying," Dr. Badran told Reuters. "Don't know as a matter of fact what kind of discount we can get."

He said the two countries were not currently negotiating a new deal but he assumed that the price of the crude oil imports might be pegged somewhere between the \$16 a barrel Jordan had been paying and the higher spot price — now hovering at about \$20 a barrel.

Baghdad has been supplying Jordan with oil at below-market prices to repay hundreds of millions of dollars in debt incurred during the Iran-Iraq war. No money has changed hands.

Jordan has resumed full imports of Iraqi oil after supplies were halted by the Gulf war and anti-government rebellions in Iraq.

Mr. Badran said about 6,000 to 7,000 tonnes a day were being trucked to Jordan, enough for its daily needs.

He did not say why Amman and Baghdad would renegotiate the price of oil.

USISI adds: In Washington State Department spokesman Richard Boucher was asked about the Observer report. Mr. Boucher noted that "the announced policy of the government of Jordan has been to adhere to the U.N. sanctions against Iraq."

"We've not seen the document that's cited by the Observer, so it's difficult to provide any sort of detailed comment," he added.

However, he pointed out that "the figures that they cite for trade between April 1990 and April 1991 include a period, which is April to July 1990, in which sanctions did not apply."

Mr. Boucher said it was also not clear what types of trade were included in the figures nor whether the implementation of the reported trade pact was dependent on a relaxation of sanctions.

Israel 'can do without aid'

(Continued from page 1)

settling the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, with a difficult choice.

About 100,000 Jews live in heavily fortified enclaves among 1.75 million Palestinians in revolt in the occupied territories. Mr. Shamir's government, the most right-wing in Israeli history, says the settlements are vital to "security" and based on "Biblical rights."

The United States, working to broker Arab-Israeli peace talks, has condemned the settlements as an obstacle to peace and President George Bush has said they could jeopardise U.S. aid.

Mr. Modai, like Mr. Shamir, insisted there should be no connection between the controversial settlement issue and what he views as humanitarian aid for bringing Soviet Jews to Israel.

Asked if Israel might be flexible about its settlement policy, Mr. Modai replied: "Why don't you ask openly... wouldn't Israel give up, sell territories? My answer is, no. No."

"We're a stiff-necked people. If

anyone should forget that, I suggest they re-read the Bible," he said.

In another development opposition leader Shimon Peres said Tuesday Israel has damaged its world image by disclosing its soldiers pose as Arabs to fight the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Israel Radio broadcast his remarks just before the new army chief, Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak, appeared in parliament to defend his decision to air a television report on the secret units last Friday.

"It wasn't as fully considered as it should have been because maybe it will have a positive effect upon the terrorists and terror but it has had a negative effect upon the image of Israel abroad," said Mr. Peres, who leads the Labour Party.

"Probably if it would be my decision, I wouldn't do it," said Mr. Peres, a former prime minister and defence minister.

Journalists, soldiers and Palestinians have known of the undercover squads for years but Israeli military censors barred reports of their activities.

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Sanchez Vicario, Fernandez win as play starts at Wimbledon

Aranza Sanchez Vicario

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Arantza Sanchez Vicario and Mary Joe Fernandez eased to straight-set victories at Wimbledon as play finally began Tuesday under threatening skies.

Fourth seed Sanchez Vicario, a clay-court specialist whose improving play on grass has made her a dark horse contender this year, defeated Barbara Rittner 6-1, 6-2 as the tournament got under way a day behind schedule.

Fernandez, the fifth seed, had to work a little harder to eliminate qualifier Petra Kamstra 6-2, 6-4. Also advancing was 16th seed Judith Wiesner, who defeated American Halle Cioffi 6-1, 6-2.

Sanchez Vicario toyed with Rittner for much of the match, mixing sharp volleys, lobs and drop shots to keep the German off balance. The Spaniard did not lose a point on her serve in the first set and ran off 14 straight points in one stretch.

A light mist fell during the second set of the match and gray skies covered Wimbledon. Weather forecasters said rain was expected for much of the day and that periodic showers were probable through at least Thursday.

Slippery conditions on one court prevented 1990 finalist Zina Garrison from beginning her match against Sara Gomer of Britain.

Rain wiped out all 66 scheduled matches Monday, the fifth time a Wimbledon opening day has been washed out. It was the 26th day completely rained out since Wimbledon began in 1877.



Aranza Sanchez Vicario

Fans were subjected to hours of rain and a bomb scare Monday, and did not even get a refund.

The fans, some of whom camped out overnight and then paid up to \$26 a ticket, huddled under umbrellas all afternoon Monday. As dusk fell, they were ushered off centre court while authorities examined a suspicious package that proved to be harmless.

But the person who lost the most money Monday at Wimbledon was Monica Seles.

Gerry Smith, executive director of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), said the top-ranked Seles will be fined \$6,000 for her late withdrawal from Wimbledon.

Smith said WTA officials still do not know the exact nature of

the injury that forced Seles to drop out last Friday. He said her agent, International Management Group (IMG), has been asked for a medical certificate specifying the problem.

USA Today, a daily newspaper, reported Tuesday that Dr. Richard Steadman, an orthopaedic surgeon, treated Seles in Vail, Colorado, last week. Steadman, who performed arthroscopic knee surgery on Martina Navratilova last fall, specialises in sports injuries and has been the U.S. ski team physician for 17 years.

Steadman did not give any details on Seles' injury.

"I would like people to find out, but at her request I am to release no information," Steadman told the newspaper. Asked about the possibility that Seles could play again in three weeks,

Steadman said: "I don't disagree with that."

The San Diego Union newspaper reported Tuesday that Seles has informed organisers of the Mazda Tennis Classic in San Diego that she expects to compete in the tournament beginning on July 29.

And IMG was quoted as saying Seles will return to tennis for the pathmark classic in New Jersey that starts on July 15.

"They said there was no doubt she will come here," John Korff, the tournament's promoter, told the record of Hackensack, New Jersey. "They told me she has a mild stress fracture in her shin."

The New Jersey tournament is not part of the regular women's tour and does not count in the world rankings.

New Zealand rally attracts top drivers

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — The New Zealand rally has attracted its strongest field for several years as the top drivers seek valuable points in the intensifying battle for the world championship.

The rally, which begins Wednesday, has been a low-key affair since losing its status as a round of the manufacturers' championship in 1986.

But this year the leading three drivers in the championship standings, reigning champion Carlos Sainz of Spain in a Toyota, and Lancia's Juha Kankkunen of Finland and Didier Auriol of France, all persuaded their teams to make the long journey.

Sainz took his opposition by surprise last year when he entered the New Zealand rally at the last moment.

He won the event from a relatively weak field and went on to take the world title, but this year Lancia is not allowing the Spaniard easy points.

Traditionally the big factory-backed teams have concentrated on rallies counting for the manufacturers' title and ignored some drivers' championship events like New Zealand.

"The manufacturers' championship is always important but the drivers' championship is also very important," twice world champion Kankkunen said Tuesday.

After winning the recent Acropolis rally, Kankkunen has 58 points, 17 behind Sainz and 16 ahead of Auriol.

The rally covers 2,000 kilometres over mainly gravel roads in the northern half of the north island.

Sainz's experience last year will not give him a significant advantage because two thirds of the route have been changed to make it faster.

Another former world champion competing this year is Finn Markku Alen, driving a Subaru, who is seventh in the championship.

Mazda have entered two factory cars, the new 323 GTX model, one from its European team for Swede Ingvar Carlsson, the 1989 New Zealand winner, and one from its Pacific team for American-based New Zealander, Rod Wilken.

The rally opens with a single stage in Auckland Wednesday night and finishes in Auckland Sunday.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Replay of Dutch cup final fixed

AMSTERDAM (R) — The disputed second half of the Dutch cup final between Feyenoord Rotterdam and BVV Den Bosch will be replayed Sunday in Nijmegen without spectators, a Dutch Soccer Union (KNVB) spokesman said Tuesday. The replay was ordered by a court Monday at the request of Den Bosch, who lost the June 2 final 1-0. Feyenoord fans invaded the pitch with seven minutes left, ending the match prematurely. Feyenoord will start the 45-minute encounter 1-0 up. Their original winning goal was scored in the first half. The KNVB's main concern was meeting the June 30 deadline for entries for next season's European Cup Winners' Cup.

Stojkovic joins promoted Verona

VERONA (R) — European Cup finalists Marseille have sold unsettled Yugoslav international Dragan Stojkovic to newly-promoted Italian first division side Verona. Midfielder Stojkovic, 26, moved to the French champions after last year's World Cup finals but was out of action through injury for most of a disappointing season at Marseille. A spokesman at Verona said Tuesday the club had paid about \$5.5 million (€6.5 million) for Stojkovic, who was substitute in Marseille's European Cup final defeat by his former club, Red Star Belgrade. Verona, champions in 1985, won immediate promotion back to the first division after being relegated last season.

Astronaut to light student games flame

SHEFFIELD (R) — Helen Sharman, Britain's first astronaut, will light the flame at the opening ceremony of the world student games in her home city of Sheffield next month. Sharman, who orbited the earth 125 times during her eight-day mission to the Soviet space station Mir last month, will receive a torch carried half way around the world by students since being lit at the winter student games in Japan in March. Sharman, 28, a former food scientist who was chosen for the space mission from 13,000 applicants, will also be given the freedom of the city where she went to school and university. Helen Sharman's achievement is unique. She represents the very best of British and Sheffield's youth, said city council leader Clive Betts Tuesday. The games run from July 14-25.

TT races — a hell or heaven on wheels

DOUGLAS, Isle Of Man, (R) — To the casual observer it sounds like hell on wheels — a motorcycle race in which young men can meet their deaths by slamming into runaway horses at 200 KPH.

But for hard-bitten bikers, the annual Isle of Man Tourist Trophy (TT) races are the next best thing to heaven.

Exotic bikes crowd the Douglas sea front, heavy rock music throbs out of pubs and restaurants offer topless stage shows and fill-your-face eating contests for hungry visitors.

But a darker side is there behind the beer and merriment.

In the first week alone of this year's meeting, four riders died on the mountainous island circuit, bringing the overall tally in the 84 years since the races started to 160 competitors.

"This has got to be the worst possible advertisement for motorcycling," admitted one enthusiast last week.

Such comments do not go down well on the island, which likes to see itself as the spiritual home of the sport.

"They're heroes, aren't they," observed one local. "They're the real men, the ones who race for love, not money."

Death and destruction are absent from official publications and organisers are defensive about safety standards.

"Everybody is very guarded about it over here. You do not criticise the TT. It's an act of faith," said one resident.

"To many people, this is the

very breath of life. The TT is one of the few things the island is truly famous for."

Critics say it is an anachronism, a sporting dinosaur, which would probably have been banned by now were it staged anywhere else but this small, autonomous island.

For an event run on public roads between stone walls, with telegraph poles and iron railings among other potentially fatal hazards, the financial rewards are largely insignificant.

The physical risks are infinite. "You're never going to make this place safe, whatever you do," said 1990 Formula One TT winner Carl Fogarty.

Frightened farm animals can run out onto the uneven road and riders are often struck by low-flying sea birds. A badly-positioned manhole cover can turn into a mankiller.

The Grand Prix stars shun the two-week festival as too dangerous — the slightest mechanical failure can kill — but no amount of warnings can keep the TT devotees away.

Even spectators here seem to have a death wish — several crossing the open road during the race last week. But the riders know the risks and are willing to take them.

"It's such a great atmosphere," said Steve Hislop, who smashed his own lap record on his way to winning the opening Formula One race in the fastest time ever. "It was my dream to start racing here."

Some even combine the TT

with their honeymoons while others bring their wives and children to watch them race.

"It's just great, such a good feeling. I think the benefits, the thrills are worth it," said woman racer Liz Shiner.

The two faces of the world's most dangerous and demanding road races can perhaps be best considered after a short walk up Glenrathery Road to the TT start and finish line.

The grandstand, the pits and the paddock busy with bikes and men and women in oil-stained leathers are on one side.

Opposite, behind an old and complicated race leaderboard operated by local boy scouts, is Douglas Cemetery and the graves of some of the racers who never completed that final lap.

"It's a bad joke but I don't think they see that side," says journalist Terry Cringle who started compiling his own list of fatalities in the late 1960s despite local disapproval.

"You either do it (the TT) or you don't. If you do it then you are committed all the way and

you have no doubts."

Irishman Frank Duffy was one such committed character.

A friend of Hislop, who showed him around on his debut here last year, he could not wait to come back this June.

Riding a 125CC bike, he crashed during practice at Kerrowmoor one Thursday and died later. Hislop was on the course on the same day but did not realise what had happened.

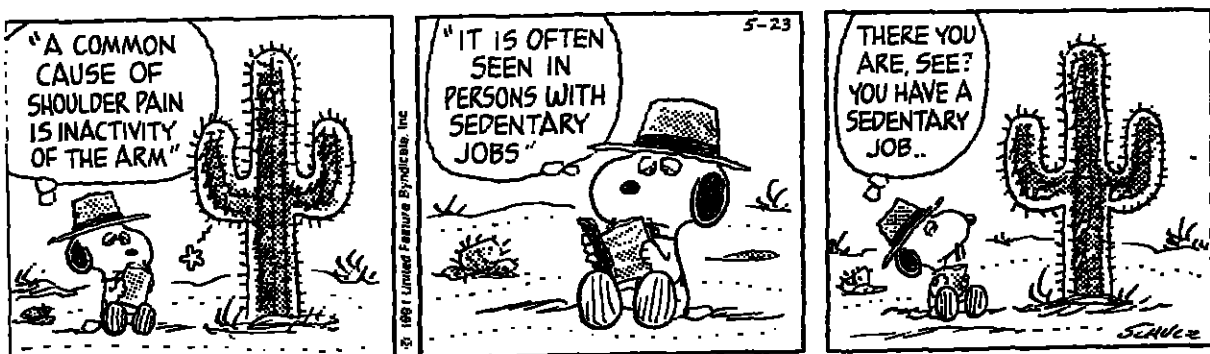
"I came upon the accident and I thought 'Oh, somebody's fallen off' and thought no more about it until I got home and my girlfriend said 'there's been another death,'" he said.

Hislop, 29, says the danger does get to him. "It's scary with all the obstacles ... It plays on your mind."

But he also loves the TT and is a strong supporter of its existence.

"Even a 500CC bike can get you killed," says Hislop, whose brother Gary died on a bike. "You can get killed falling off a horse."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll-Fligier Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Capricorn brings a fresh new attitude about cooperating and new conditions your efforts towards new conditions and personalities that you have been researching.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can get all of those obligations now attended to whether they be of a personal or business nature so lose no time but get busy without delay.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you have all kinds of opportunity to come to a new understanding with all partners if you and they will just give and take a little.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your need for more efficiency in whatever you have to do is fine now for all you have to do is to carry through with the ideas that you have thought out before this.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day to have much pleasure and happiness after you have quickly completed the work facing you so make appointments early for fun later.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your residence needs a number of improvements made for more harmony there and you can get it done by a manner in which you do act with special tact.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind

that does require you to communicate and make contact with others now is great to be sure to show your interest in all others.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You feel the need for more money or possessions and it is your moment to focus your time and your attention upon increasing what you own.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have the vision, vitality and vigor now to go after what you want of a personal nature and to get it with far more ease, facility than usually.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are a born extravert and can project well but now you need to get off and to investigate and to find out what answers you need.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) There are a number of good friends who will do pretty much whatever you wish them to do so put yourself in a good light socially and make headway.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Think out what is meant by an official who tells you what to do but what you do not understand and need clarification before acting thereon.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Many new ideas flash through your consciousness that show you how to get ahead and get the things you want and to develop in knowledge also.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

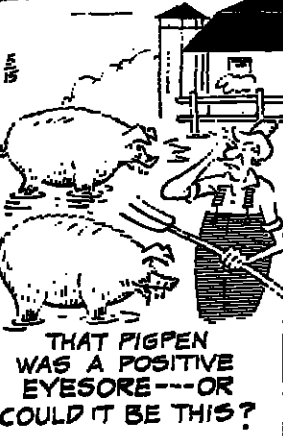


JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUNYT
DRAUF
GOTSDY
SHAGAT

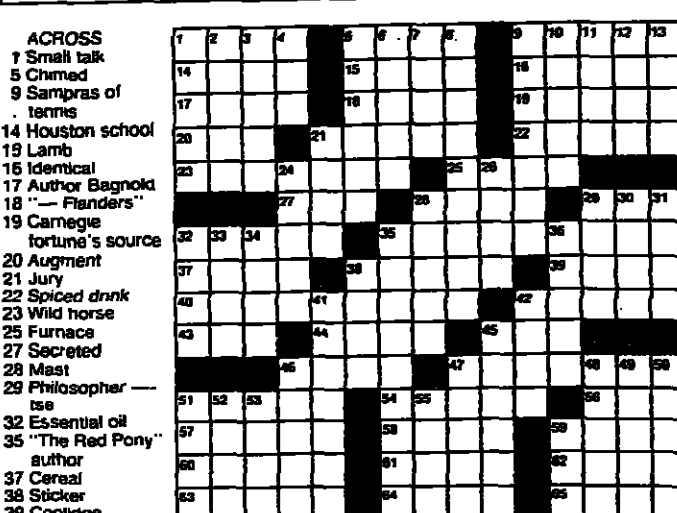


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LOOSE WAGON ORIOLE HOTBED
Answer: He didn't know when to stop until he was told this—WHERE TO GO

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



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| ACROSS | 1 Small talk | 5 Chum | 9 Sarin | 13 Houston school | 17 Lamb | 21 Identical | 25 Furze | 29 Carnage | 33 Fortune's source | 37 Segment | 41 Spiced drink | 45 Wild horse | 49 Furnace | 53 Secreted | 57 Mast | 61 Philosopher | 65 Essential oil | 69 "The Red Pony" author | 73 Cereal | 77 Sucker | 81 Coolidge | 85 Cowboys | 89 Overbearing | 93 Eventually | 97 Lively dance | 101 Jones | 105 Check | 109 Elway and mates | 113 Showery month | 117 727's parking place | 121 Newman film | 125 City on the Dnieper | 129 Game fish | 133 Fir fruit | 137 Cigar end | 141 Camel leathers | 145 Genovar | 149 Expletive | 153 Fringe benefit | 157 Down | 161 Yellowish-white | 165 Indian | 169 Chemical substances | 173 Danson | | | | | | | | | |
| DOWN | 2 Indian | 6 Cheesecake or shoe | 10 Ingersoll | 14 Blessing | 18 Herds | 22 Sack | 26 Onward | 30 Med. leader | 34 Speedy horses | 38 Part of a horse's foot | 42 John | 46 Bound | 50 Out (made) | 54 Bank | 58 Twosome | 62 Show gratitude | 66 Ottoman | 70 Wreath | 74 Semite | 78 Permeable | 82 Columnist | 86 Staunch | 90 Delicacy | 94 Willie | 98 Fry | 102 Cabbage or shoe | 106 Ingersoll | 110 Blessing | 114 Herds | 118 Sack | 122 Onward | 126 Med. leader | 130 Speedy horses | 134 Part of a horse's foot | 138 John | 142 Bound | 146 Out (made) | 150 Bank | 154 Twosome | 158 Show gratitude | 162 Ottoman | 166 Wreath | 170 Semite | 174 Permeable | 178 Columnist | 182 Staunch | 186 Delicacy | 190 Willie | 194 Fry | 198 Cabbage or shoe | 202 Ingersoll | 206 Blessing | 210 Herds |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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ALICE TRAM ROSE
PACIFIC RAILROAD
EVE ROLLER COIN
SARIN TOBACCO
AMERICAN ORIOLE
SHEET WARM VIBRA
TONE GOING JAVIA
ARROW OVER ROSES
RESEED GARDEN
THIRD GALLI
HOOVER ARD GIE
TORE ROSETOFOS
CLAY OLEA URBAN
HOME BIAN TUBIS

46 EE and EEE
47 '90 batting champ
48 Carriage
49 Proprietor
50 Negligent

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52 Farm item
53 Indian queen
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59 Better

Economy

Scandal prompts Kaifu to request more controls over securities industry

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told his finance minister Tuesday to deal sternly with the scandal tarnishing Japan's brokerage houses.

Japan's "big four" brokerages face accusations of compensating wealthy clients for investment losses, manipulating stock prices, dealing with gangsters and failing to report taxable transactions.

The finance ministry, which is widely viewed as being too cozy with the securities houses it oversees, has come under increasing fire as allegations of misconduct in the industry pile up.

At a meeting Tuesday to hear a report on the deepening scandal, Mr. Kaifu instructed Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to tighten controls over the securities industry, according to a ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ministry spokesman Mitsuru Hasegawa said punitive action, such as a temporary suspension of operations, was under consideration for Nomura Securities Co., the world's largest brokerage firm, and Nikko Securities Co., which are at the centre of the controversy.

"It is truly regrettable and I personally feel miserable," Mr. Hashimoto, a strong contender to be Japan's next prime minister, was quoted as saying by the mass-circulation Asahi Shimbun newspaper.



Toshiki Kaifu

Despite the tough talk, it is not yet clear how aggressive the government will be. Only two years ago, the ministry warned two Japanese brokerages to stop offering clients compensation, but analysts say such action remained widespread.

Small investors who feel they are treated unfairly by the securities houses also believe little will be done to change the questionable practices.

Some commentators also note that the finance ministry and brokerages traditionally have close ties, in part because officials often leave government to accept lucrative jobs in the security houses.

New Indian finance minister pledges far-reaching reforms

NEW DELHI (R) — New Finance Minister Manmohan Singh said Tuesday he would initiate far-reaching changes to help India overcome its worst economic crisis.

"A crisis is also an opportunity, and I am going to use this crisis to begin a process of structural change," Mr. Singh told his first news conference a day after taking office.

Nothing would be regarded as sacred, he said, including decades of commitment to a huge public sector, bureaucratic controls and the general exclusion of multinationals.

"I do not think we will be swayed by any ideological hang-up of the past," the former central bank chief said.

"The world has changed beyond recognition. We in this country have to wake up to the harsh new reality of this change," he stressed.

Mr. Singh declined to give any details of how he would start creating what he called an efficient and internationally competitive economy.

But he said India, one of the

developing world's biggest debtors, would not default on the \$70 billion it owes overseas, especially the \$4 billion of short-term debt it was fighting to maintain.

"I have set in motion a process in which all decisions necessary to maintain confidence in our economy, to reassure the world that India is a viable entity, has begun," he said.

"I am confident we are not going down the drain. This country will not renege on its international commitments," he emphasized.

He said the new government would continue negotiations for India's second \$2 billion loan this year from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to prop up foreign exchange reserves covering less than a month of imports.

He repeated New Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's promise that India would open its doors to foreign investment and make it a "rewarding experience."

Mr. Singh said the days in which India regarded multinational companies as "immoral,

dangerous," were over. "I believe we can do business with multinationals," he said but would not say on what terms they would be allowed in.

Foreign investment, which totalled a minuscule \$200 million last year, has to wend its way through a dense bureaucratic maze that can take years to penetrate.

"We will remove excessive bureaucracy and delays as fast as we can," Mr. Singh said.

Similar aspects of what Indians call the "licence raj," which gives bureaucrats dominant control of industry, would be removed internally, Mr. Singh said.

"We will look at all existing controls that come in the way of the exercise of creativity," he said.

Mr. Singh would not say to what extent he would allow privatisation of the sprawling public sector.

"If the public sector works, that is our first preference. If the public sector cannot deliver, we must look at all other options with an open mind," he said.

Japan uses double talk to close Gulf aid gap

TOKYO (R) — Japan has decided to pay about \$500 million to cover foreign exchange losses on its Gulf aid package but will give Japanese taxpayers a different reason for the extra funds, government sources say.

They said in interviews this week that Japan would tell Washington the funds were to end a dispute over foreign exchange losses in the 1.17 trillion yen Gulf package.

The package was worth \$9 billion when it was announced in January, but by the time it was handed over in March the yen had weakened against the dollar. At current exchange rates it is worth about \$8.5 billion.

The sources said the government would tell its taxpayers that the payment was a contribution to the post-Gulf war world. This would avoid the appearance that Tokyo had given in to U.S. pressures.

"Japan will pay out this sum only in the form of fresh aid to support post-Gulf war peace efforts," said one government source.

"Anything under the name of 'currency gap payments' would be unacceptable because the Japanese budget is approved and allocated in yen," he stressed. Foreign ministry officials say

they have argued with U.S. officials that Washington reaped windfall currency profits on a separate Japanese Gulf contribution of \$3.9 billion last year when the yen was firmer against the dollar.

All the \$9 billion has now been handed over to the Gulf Cooperation Council which collected international aid for the U.S.-led campaign which ousted Iraq from Kuwait.

A Japanese government source said Tokyo and Washington were trying to close the currency gap "quietly" so that bilateral ties would not be harmed. It was hoped to settle the issue before Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu met U.S. President George Bush on July 11 in the United States.

Mr. Kaifu announced last month that Japan was prepared to address Washington's demands that Tokyo pay the full \$9 billion.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had until then repeatedly denied Japan planned to make up for exchange rate fluctuations.

The sources said Mr. Hashimoto, as the man responsible for Japan's fiscal management, could not acknowledge Japan would pay out more money when his ministry was urging other govern-

ment agencies to curb spending. Mr. Hashimoto is widely seen as a main contender to succeed Mr. Kaifu as prime minister when his term expires in October.

One government source said the extra \$500 million would probably come from the foreign reserve fund, which could prompt the finance ministry with further headaches.

Ministry officials said the reserve fund, for the current fiscal year was the smallest for decades as the government tries to cut spending.

The reserve fund was 150 billion yen (\$1.07 billion) at the start of the fiscal year on April 1. This accounted for 0.21 per cent of the overall budget against 0.23 per cent in 1990/91.

The reserve fund usually helps pay for disaster relief both at home and abroad.

"Payments of the Gulf aid gap from the reserve fund would halve the outstanding sum of 138 billion yen (\$992 million) to 68 billion yen (\$489 million)," said one official.

"With the typhoon season coming and Mount Unzen still active, we are worried that the reserve may not be able to meet possible provisions for disaster relief this year," the official said.

Soviet bank loans exceed budget by 21 billion roubles

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet officials have discovered that the country's banks exceeded their officially regulated lending targets by billions of roubles last year, according to the reformist daily Izvestia.

"In 1990, 21 billion roubles of credit resources were allocated above the amount planned by parliament and the country's leaders," Izvestia said.

At the official commercial rate, regarded by many economists as artificially inflated, the excess loans involved \$12.6 billion.

In an article headlined "Spare billions were injected into the economy and nobody knew," Izvestia said the Soviet central bank (Gosbank) did not discover the error until the end of the first quarter of 1991.

The Soviet banking system still runs on carbon paper, not computers. As a result, it took Gosbank several months to process documents showing loans ex-

ceeded budget allocations. The newspaper suggested that the Soviet Union's new commercial banks were to blame for the excess loans.

"If old banks gave money on the basis of credit plans sent to them by higher authorities there could not be any overspending. But commercial banks are directly interested in increasing their turnover because they can earn much more money by getting interest on every credit allocation," it said.

Despite the problems, Izvestia said the Soviet Union should continue trying efforts to reform its banking system.

It also called for greater coordination between the Kremlin and republics on monetary issues.

Of the 21 billion roubles issued in excess loans, 15 billion roubles were granted by banks in the Russian Republic, it said.

"Each republic thinks it is possible and even profitable to

carry out its own monetary policy. But a joint policy is the only possible solution as long as the rouble is our common currency," the newspaper added.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov said in an interview Saturday that the Soviet economy needs capital investments from the West and not loans or handouts.

Mr. Pavlov, in a wide-ranging interview with Izvestia, said radical change in the economy has been delayed for years because hardliners such as former politburo members Yegor Ligachev and Mikhail Solomentsev would have ousted President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"When they blame Gorbachev for wasting time, when they say six years have passed, they do not understand," Mr. Pavlov said.

"What could Gorbachev do having Ligachev and Solomentsev around? Could he make changes? No."

Mr. Pavlov said Mr. Gorbachev had to manoeuvre since assuming power in 1985 to avoid confrontation with the hardliners.

"Even to formulate openly, say the idea of private property, could have meant political

Investors steer clear of trouble-prone Philippines

MANILA (R) — Investors are steering clear of the trouble-prone Philippines, with approved foreign investment falling sharply this year and new uncertainty over the future of U.S. military bases likely to reinforce the downturn.

The Board of Investments (BOI) said Tuesday that approved foreign investment in the country dropped 28 per cent in the first five months of the year as the Philippines struggled to recover from the severe impact of the Gulf crisis.

Foreign investment approvals fell to 9.2 million pesos (\$328.5 million) in the period January to May, from 12.8 billion pesos (\$457 million) in the same months last year.

Japan remained the top foreign investor, but Japanese companies pumped in 35 per cent less money than last year at 3.1 billion pesos (\$110 million), against 4.8 billion pesos (\$171 million).

Bankers and business analysts said the Philippines was still largely missing out on the high levels of investment going into other South East Asian economies.

The cut in investment is expected to reinforce a slowdown in the Philippine economy, badly hit by the Gulf crisis and a succession of natural disasters including the explosion of Mount Pinatubo volcano this month.

The eruption of Pinatubo has created new jitters among investors worried about a possible withdrawal of American troops from the Philippines after two major U.S. bases were badly damaged by mud spewed out by the volcano.

The Philippine stock market, one of the best performers in Asia this year, has fallen 11 per cent since Pinatubo exploded, forcing a quarter of a million Filipinos to abandon their homes, and 21,500 American servicemen and their families to evacuate.

"The way it looks, the hopes for a U.S. bases agreement, which we had been anticipating, have dimmed," said Mr. Roy Nicolas, president of the securities research and analysis company Great Angle Corp.

"If there is no bases treaty, the funds that we are anticipating may not materialise. Those who are on the selling side are about the implications of the departure of the Americans... it may mean that they are not coming back," he said.

The bases are seen as crucial in underpinning investor confidence. The present lease expires on Sept. 16, and tortuous year-long talks on a new treaty are expected to resume next month after both sides have assessed volcanic damage.

Total investment approvals for both Filipino and foreign businesses in the Philippines fell 21 per cent during the period to 18.3 billion pesos (\$653.5 million) from 23.27 billion pesos (\$831 million), according to the BOI.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Garrucha blamed a controversial 9.0 per cent Philippine import levy and a global slowdown in investment for the fall.

But he expected investment to pick up later in the year, following this month's approval of a new liberalised investment law and a gradual reduction in the levy.

Many businessmen expect improvement, however, after next year's presidential elections in the Philippines.

Financial Markets		
in co-operation with		
Cairo Amman Bank		
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Date: 20.6.91		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.56	0.58
Sterling Pound	1.1155	1.1221
Deutsche Mark	3.826	3.847
Swiss Franc	4.454	4.475
French Franc	11.25	11.31
Japanese Yen	4.891	4.915
Dutch Guilder	3.598	3.615
Swedish Krona	1.059	1.064
Italian Lira	0.514	0.517
Belgian Franc	0.1656	0.1665
Per 100		
Other Currencies		
Date: 20.6.91		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8200
Lebanese Lira	0.745	0.765
Saudi Riyal	1.820	1.830
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	1.850	1.860
Egyptian Pound	1.950	2.150
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700
UAE Dirham	1.850	1.860
Greek Drachma	3.400	3.600
Cypriot Pound	1.3900	1.4200
Per 100		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.		
One Sterling	1.6315/25	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1420/25	Canadian dollar
	1.7922/32	Deutschemark
	2.0215/25	Dutch guilders
	1.5493/5300	Swiss francs
	36.95/99	Belgian francs
	6.0900/50	French francs
	1334/1335	Italian lire
	138.65/75	Japanese yen
	6.4810/60	Swedish crowns
	6.9930/60	Norwegian crowns
	6.9200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	363.05/363.55	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
TOKYO — Tokyo stocks shrugged off brokerage scandals and New York's overnight dive to close at the day's highs. After a sharp opening plunge, firm downside resistance and the lack of new developments in the scandals encouraged bargain-hunting. The Nikkei average rose 141.9 points to close at 23,907.42.	
SYDNEY — Australian shares rebounded off early falls to close slightly lower in thin trade. The All-Ordinaries closed down 3.4 points at 1,499.8.	
HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks, yanked lower in early trading by steep losses in New York, shot to a strong finish. The Hang Seng index jumped 34.72 points to 3,604.26.	
SINGAPORE — Tokyo's recovery helped the market recover marginally its early losses but overall sentiment remained bearish. The Straits Times Industrial index closed down 7.17 points at 1,491.89.	
BOMBAY — Share prices recovered from a disastrous start but still finished with losses in nervous trading on fears the new government may impose harsh economic measures soon. The Bombay Stock Exchange index lost 3.48 points to 1,301.85.	
FRANKFURT — German shares closed little changed at the end of a moderately active session. The DAX index fell 0.09 point at 1,691.47 after having moved in an 11-point band all day.	
PARIS — French stocks erased early gains and came down sharply on the back of a faltering Wall Street to close hardly changed. The CAC-40 index ended at 1,775.53, virtually unchanged from Monday lowest close in two months of 1,775.63.	
LONDON — Shares were knocked off early afternoon highs by slightly and unexpected weakness in the New York market. The FTSE 100 index closed down 2.9 points to 2,461.2 after touching a high of 2,469.	
NEW YORK — U.S. Blue Chips trade in a tight range at mildly lower levels. Trading was choppy as some investors did limited bargain-hunting but others moved to the sidelines amid worries over corporate results and California banks. At noon (1600 GMT) the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 3.58 at 2,916.59.	

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in
SAVAGE WILL
Arabic

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NIJOU

1) TEENAGE
MUTANT
NINJATURTLES
Show: 11:30, 1, 3:30, 5

2) FORBIDDEN
WIFE
Show: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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GENERAL MANAGER

Cambodian accord appears threatened over U.N. peace plan

PATTAYA, Thailand (Agencies) — Cambodia's warring factions Tuesday debated how their new truce agreement should be monitored, but it appeared threatened by wide differences over a United Nations peace plan.

Tuesday's morning negotiating session was cancelled after the communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas asked for time to finalise their position, sources said. The talks with the Vietnamese-installed Communist government resume in the afternoon.

"We have proposed that 700 U.N. men form a U.N. Control and Verification (team) of the ceasefire, and we are waiting for the other side to reply," said a Khmer Rouge official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Tuesday the resistance and the government differed over this "very delicate, difficult issue."

Representatives of Prime Minister Hun Sen's government are meeting at this beach resort near Bangkok with leaders of a three-party guerrilla coalition. The Khmer Rouge are joined at the talks by two non-Communist rebel groups — Sihanouk's forces and Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Their war began with Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in late 1978, which ended a 32-year Khmer Rouge rule in which hundreds of thousands of people died

of famine, disease and executions. With about 30,000 fighters, the Khmer Rouge is by far the strongest guerrilla group.

Cambodia's civil war has created a desperate refugee situation, with about 500,000 of the country's 8 million people displaced by the fighting. Many casualties are not from the fighting but from disease and malnutrition due to economic deprivation.

Three Thai farmers maimed by landmines and two Americans held a small protest Tuesday in the lobby of the hotel where the talks were being held, displaying photos of war victims before being whisked away by security officials.

"We wanted to show the effect of the war on innocent civilians as the leaders debated the war," said Bob Mott, one of the Americans.

Mott, a Jesuit brother, is the head of the Coalition for Peace and Reconciliation, group based in Thailand near the eastern border with Cambodia. The other American demonstrator is a doctor.

The three farmers lost limbs while tilling their rice fields near the border, which is strewn with thousands of mines planted over the course of the 12-year-old conflict between the Vietnamese-installed government and three guerrilla groups.

The security officials said they took the demonstrators away in

order to check their immigration papers. The five later were released and told they had to go back to the border.

On Monday, the first day of talks, the four factions signed an agreement to stop receiving foreign arms. They also formalised Sunday's announcement of an indefinite extension of the truce that began May 1.

However, Sihanouk says a U.N. official has told him the U.N. Security Council would not monitor the ceasefire or other agreements unless the entire U.N. peace plan was accepted.

"The U.N. doesn't want to take a chunk of the plan without assurances the whole plan is going to work," concurred a Western diplomat observing the talks. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sihanouk told reporters Tuesday that the Khmer Rouge wanted the U.N. plan implemented at once and in its entirety, but Hun Sen wanted to do so step by step.

Hun Sen denied Sihanouk's charges, telling reporters Tuesday that "we have never said we rejected the U.N. peace plan." "What we would like to reach is a comprehensive solution," he said. "We have accepted the major part of the U.N. plan. Now we are moving towards the final objective."

The U.N. peace plan for Cambodia was drafted by the Security Council's five permanent mem-

bers — China, Britain, the United States, France and the Soviet Union. The plan is considered a breakthrough because the five nations have supported different sides in the war.

The guerrillas have fully accepted the plan for a monitored truce, demobilisation of the four factions, a U.N. peacekeeping force, and extensive U.N. involvement in the country's administration before U.N.-supervised elections.

But Phnom Penh has rejected disarmament before elections because it fears the Khmer Rouge will cheat, and has demanded the plan include measures to prevent the group from returning to power. It also does not want a major U.N. military force in the country.

China hails progress

China hailed the provisional agreement reached Tuesday by Cambodia's warring factions. Peking has been the key backer of the Khmer Rouge.

"We welcome the positive progress achieved at the Pattaya meeting," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"It is our belief that the beginning of operations of the (Cambodian) Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia under the chairmanship of Prince Sihanouk will further facilitate a political settlement of the Cambodian issue," the ministry statement said.

6 killed on Soweto train 3 days after peace talks

SOWETO (R) — Gunmen killed at least six people on a Soweto commuter train Tuesday in an eruption of township violence just three days after a peace conference.

The attack took the death toll in black political violence to more than 28 since Sunday, a day after representatives of the government and the two main black political parties met for their first joint talks on the fighting.

"We are very concerned about this sudden upsurge of violence at the time when all parties have agreed to preach peace among their warring supporters," African National Congress spokesman Carl Niehaus said.

"We are more concerned about the fact that every time there is some peace initiative, some kind of orchestrated killings begin. This proves our belief that some sinister force has been behind plans to wreck peace initiatives."

On Saturday the ANC sat down with its main rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party led by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, smaller black parties and the government to draft proposals on ending township violence that has killed 2,000 people around Johannesburg since August.

The ANC has blamed the violence on the government, saying it is siding with Inkatha to weaken the ANC ahead of power-sharing negotiations.

About 7,000 people have been killed in more than three years of rivalry between the ANC and Inkatha.

At least 18 people were wounded in Tuesday's shooting on a Johannesburg-bound train.

A railway inspector said he saw five bodies at one station and witnesses said seven more bodies were found at other stations.

At least 20 people were killed Sunday in two shootings in Natal province townships, breeding ground of the factional violence. Police said two other people were killed and 12 wounded in other incidents of political violence during the night.

The ANC says it has suspended preliminary power-sharing talks with the government until it is satisfied President F.W. de Klerk has taken meaningful steps to quell the fighting.

The violence will be a major item on the agenda at the ANC's policy-making conference in Durban next week, its first in the country since it was legalised last year after 30 years underground.

Meanwhile a South African minister said Tuesday he hoped for a swift end to sanctions imposed by Japan and other nations and promised South Africa's new constitution would safeguard private ownership and free enterprise.

Roh predicts early collapse of N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo has predicted the North Korean political system will collapse in the near future and unification will come earlier than expected.

Meeting war veterans Monday on the eve of the anniversary of the Korean War, Roh said Communist North Korea had no choice but to emerge from its shell or become totally alienated from the rest of the world.

Tuesday is the 41st anniversary of the North's invasion of the South. Three years of brutal fighting ended in a truce in 1953 but, in the absence of a peace accord, the two sides remain technically at war.

"North Korea cannot withstand longer than four to five years, and the turning point for unification will come quicker," Roh was quoted Tuesday as saying by an official at the presidential residence.

Korea, a restive Japanese colony from 1910-45, was partitioned at the end of World War II.

More than 10 million Koreans dispersed during the war remain separated from their families by the most heavily fortified frontier in the world.

Roh said last week the division of the Korean peninsula would not last beyond this century and told his cabinet to prepare the way for unification.

Backed into a corner by Seoul's successful wooing of traditional North Korean allies Moscow and Peking, Pyongyang announced in May it would apply for separate membership of the United Nations, a step already announced by South Korea.

In another major policy shift, the North agreed this month to sign a pact that would open its nuclear plants for international inspection.

Despite the steps by the North, 61 per cent of South Koreans believe the threat of an attack by the North still exists, a recent survey by the Information Ministry showed.

Relations have improved, mainly thanks to sporting links, but 52 per cent of those polled thought North Korea's basic policies towards the South had not changed.

The two Koreas fielded joint table tennis and soccer teams at international competitions for the first time this year.

Roh, however, advocates caution, saying the South still needs to maintain firm security policies against any attack from the North.

Since last September, premiers from both sides have held three rounds of discussions, the highest-level talks since the division of the peninsula.

Roh has placed high priority on improving ties with the North and has repeatedly offered to hold talks with North Korean President Kim Il-Sung, installed by the Soviet Union in 1948.

In a separate development, about 600 riot police stormed Seoul's Yonsei University while classes were underway Tuesday in a failed attempt to arrest a fugitive student leader, witnesses said.

Later, hundreds of students clashed with police in two separate skirmishes after some 1,000 police sealed off gates to the campus and refused to allow outsiders to enter for a planned rally.

Police are rounding up fugitives thought to be leaders of seven weeks of violent anti-government protests.

Police said they did not apprehend Kim Chong-Shik, chairman of the nationwide National Council of Student Representatives, who was thought to have been on the Yonsei Campus during the morning and escaped.

Kim is accused of instigating anti-government protests.

Nationwide protests triggered by the April 26 fatal beating of a student generally have waned and President Roh Tae-Woo's governing Democratic Liberal Party won an overwhelming victory in nationwide local elections last week.

COLUMN

Soviet troops may soon set Big Macs

MOSCOW (R) — McDonald's, the U.S. fast-food restaurant chain, may soon be feeding its Big Mac hamburgers to the Soviet army, TASS news agency said. The Soviet army chief, General Mikhail Mosyev, has met McDonald's executive George Cohon and discussed a plan to build enough restaurants to serve burgers and French fries exclusively to the armed forces.

Cohon told TASS the idea would be considered. McDonald's has been serving tens of thousands of Soviet civilians for the last 17 months at its Moscow restaurant. The firm had planned to open 20 restaurants in the Soviet capital last summer, shortly after erecting its golden arches symbol along Pushkin Square in January, 1990. The restaurants have not been built.

Chinese army gets karaoke fever

PEKING (R) — The People's Liberation Army, defenders of China's Communist revolution, has been bitten by the karaoke singing bug. Soldiers stationed in Peking are so enamoured of karaoke singing that a recent tour of 16 barracks revealed 11 were equipped with karaoke equipment, the Peking Youth News said. Popular songs among the rank and file include My Mother's Kiss and My Future Is Not A Dream, it said. "The only regrettable thing is, most of the karaoke tapes available now are popular songs from Hong Kong and Taiwan, and almost none of them reflect life in a military camp," the newspaper said.

Man accused of plucking out friend's eye

ALFRED, MAINE (AP) — A man who police say plucked out and intended to eat a friend's eye during a drug-induced frenzy pleaded innocent to attempted murder and aggravated assault.

Police allege Stephen P. Gagnon, 23, shot, stabbed and mutilated Randall G. Keronen, 20, on March 30. Gagnon entered the plea Monday. He is in jail on \$250,000 bail. Police said Gagnon told them he had intended to eat the eye but put it in his pocket instead. Keronen has been hospitalized since the attack.

New Zealand to clamp down on bird smugglers

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand will increase penalties fivefold for bird smugglers after two women returning from the United States were intercepted at Auckland Airport with 40 parrot eggs strapped to their bodies, said Conservation Minister Denis Marshall. "Incidents like this provide further evidence of an illegal trade in the world's endangered birdlife across New Zealand's borders," he said in a statement.

"This trade is fuelled by the demand of private breeders and zoos for cage birds, regardless of the effect on the wild population. It is time to curb this trade."

Marshall said he believed the parrot eggs were being carried for incubation and hand-rearing in New Zealand. New Zealand's economy depends on agriculture, and customs officials have to be on the alert for illegal wildlife imports which could carry diseases.

'Missing Link' jawbone found in Namibia

LONDON (R) — The jawbone of an animal that could prove to be the "missing link" between new and apes has been found in Namibia, the daily Telegraph newspaper has reported. The fossilised jawbone was found in the Otavi mountains of Namibia earlier this month in a site kept secret to prevent unwelcome visitors, the newspaper said. "If it is as old as 10 to 15 million years, which the surrounding rock indicates, then the animal belonged to a species likely to have been the ancestors of gorillas, chimpanzees and humans," the newspaper quoted anthropologist Philip Tobias as saying. Tobias, who recently retired from South Africa's University of Witwatersrand medical school, said the right-hand molar was all that was found, but that was probably enough to establish the animal's identity. This animal probably walked on all four feet and was covered in thick hair, Tobias said. "He probably had a long back, sloping upward to his head, his forearms being longer than his back legs."

Kohl to seek concrete reform plans from Gorbachev

FRANKFURT (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl will ask Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to present concrete economic reform plans to the world's leading industrial nations next month, a major newspaper said Tuesday.

Kohl will make the request when he meets with Gorbachev in Kiev on July 5, the Bonn daily newspaper Die Welt reported.

The Kohl-Gorbachev meeting comes just 10 days before the group of seven industrial nations convene in London for the world economic summit.

The world's seven leading industrial democracies, called the group of seven, have agreed to meet with Gorbachev after their annual conference in London is completed.

Gorbachev faces opposition from conservative elements of the old centralised economic system in the Soviet Union, who say the switch to a free market system won't work without guaranteed

support from the industrial nations.

Josef Janning, a researcher at Mainz University, said he expects Gorbachev to present a concrete reform package in London.

Janning said he believes part of the reforms will be aimed at making the Soviet energy and transportation industries more efficient, to prevent the waste that now occurs.

"For instance, the Soviet natural gas pipeline loses 30 per cent of its gas because of its poor construction," Janning said.

He said the Soviet could agree to let Western companies improve the efficiency of the pipeline, with guarantees that they would share in the profits of increased deliveries attained from the same level of production.

The German government has long been the staunchest supporter of economic reforms in the Soviet Union. Both Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich

Genscher have repeatedly appealed to the industrial nations to back Gorbachev in switching to a free-market system.

Germany itself has pledged the Soviets 15 billion marks (\$8.5 billion) in financial assistance to help build homes and relocate some 380,000 Soviet soldiers from East Germany back to their homeland.

308 hurt in Japan rail accident

TOKYO (AP) — A commuter train packed with high school students slammed into a freight truck stalled at a railway crossing in central Japan Tuesday morning, injuring 308 passengers, police said.

The truck had stalled at the crossing in Fukuchiyama, 424 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, when the power shovel it was carrying got stuck on electric power lines, said Mineo Wada, a Kyoto police official.

Screaming passengers were flung to the floor when the train, filled with about 400 commuters, collided with the truck at about 8:15 a.m. (2315GMT Monday). Police said 19 people were hospitalised.

The exact speed of the train at the time of impact was not known, but police said it could not have been going full speed because it was only 2 kilometres from the next station.

National television showed groups of dazed students in school uniforms sitting around the train wreckage. One teenager was shown holding a white cloth to his badly bleeding head. The truck and its cargo were severely damaged.

"I heard a funny clattering, so I went outside and there was this (freight truck) that couldn't move. I ran in the house to get some flares, but it was too late and the train crashed with a boom," Kyodo quoted a 76-year-old witness, Koichi Tomita, as saying.

Wada said police arrested Masami Tanaka, 49, the driver of the freight truck, at the scene on suspicion of committing professional negligence. Tanaka was uninjured.

Last month, a train collision killed 42 people and injured another 415 in the neighbouring state of Shiga in Japan's worst train disaster in 28 years.

Quakes shake northern Japan

Meanwhile a series of three earthquakes, one with a preliminary reading of 5.6 on the Richter Scale, jolted northern Japan Tuesday. There were no reports of damage or injuries.

The Central Meteorological Agency reported no danger of tsunami tidal waves. It said all three quakes occurred off Ibaragi Prefecture (state) about 140 kilometres northeast of Tokyo between 12:15 p.m. (0349 GMT) and 1:03 p.m. (0403 GMT).

Finland to bolster direct contacts with Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Finnish President Mauno Koivisto met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday and said Finland would like to strengthen ties with Yeltsin's republic.

Koivisto also held talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on trade and political issues, including Gorbachev's proposed union treaty to hold the country together.

It was the first official meeting between Finnish and Russian presidents, and the 12th meeting between Gorbachev and Koivisto.

The 67-year-old Finnish president told a news conference that the growing power of the 15 Soviet republics presents Finland with "some difficulties."

Speaking in English, he said his country wants to expand contacts with Russia and the other republics, while preserving "the achievements we have with hard work been able to gain" in trade and diplomacy with the central government.

Moderate quakes jolt areas near Philippine volcano

MANILA (AP) — A series of moderate earthquakes jolted areas near Mount Pinatubo Tuesday, sending thousands of people scurrying from their homes and raising fears of landslides.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Foreign Secretary said Tuesday that the damage suffered by the country and U.S. military bases during eruptions that began June 9 had dramatically changed the nature of U.S.-Philippine relations.

A cloud of ash and steam rose nearly 10 kilometres (over 6 miles) high and drifted slowly to the north and northeast, blanketing the provinces of Tarlac and Pangasinana with a fresh layer of debris.

Among the areas covered by ash was President Corason Aquino's sugar plantation in Tarlac.

At least five tremors strong enough to rouse sleepers and topple household objects were recorded among more than 100 tremors since early Monday. There were no immediate reports of damage.

Scientists fear avalanches from the tonnes of debris piled on the slopes of the 1,429 metre volcano, which had been dormant for more than 600 years. In some ravines, the ash is up to 200 metres deep.

The eruptions of scalding ash clouds and super-heated rocks have claimed at least 310 lives and forced U.S. Air Force personnel and their families to clear out of Clark Air Base, about 16 kilometres east of the volcano.

All U.S. military dependents and at least 1,500 servicemen have been ordered to return to the United States.

The U.S. embassy said that as of Monday night, 17,332 troops and dependents had been trans-

ported from Subic Bay to Cebu and "virtually all" had been flown on from there to Guam.

The ash — soaked by typhoon rains — has toppled many buildings and clogged roads and airport runways in Manila, 110 kilometres south of Mount Pinatubo. At least 39 people are missing.

In Olongapo, a city of more than 300,000 people near Subic Bay, residents ran into the streets during the quakes.

"Children were crying. Dogs were howling and mothers covered their children to cover them from falling objects," said journalist Louella Vizcocho.

Electricity has been knocked out in Olongapo, 40 kilometres southwest of the volcano, since a major eruption June 15 dumped tonnes of ash throughout southwestern Luzon Island.

In Menlo Park, California, the leader of a U.S. Geological Survey team monitored Mount Pinatubo, said he believed the worst of the eruptions were over but that the threat of landslides could linger.

"It's likely to be a danger not only this year but for one or two years," said the scientist, David Harlow.

In Angeles, adjacent to Clark Air Base, spotters have been sent to the roofs of tall buildings to watch for avalanches.

Philippine officials are still assessing the economic impact from the eruptions. But the department of agriculture announced Tuesday that damage to crops amounted to 130.65 million pesos (\$4.7 million).

Damage to the rice crop, the staple of the Philippine diet, was placed at 58 million pesos (\$2.1 million).

On Tuesday, the U.S. embassy announced that \$5.3 million had

been released to government and private agencies to help in the relief effort.

Philippine government sources quoted U.S. officials as telling them that ash and mudslides have caused about \$300 million in damage at Clark, the largest U.S. military installation overseas.

But U.S. embassy sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday no official figure had been provided to the Manila government and that estimates were still being prepared.

The lease on Clark and Subic expires Sept. 16. Before the eruptions, talks on an extension had bogged down over how much Washington must pay and how long the installations can remain.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said formal talks on the future of the bases may resume in Manila next month.

"These damages suffered by the Philippines may force us to look over our position," Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told Filipino reporters.

"It doesn't need a volcanic eruption for the ugly side of any race or any population to be shown," Manglapus said, referring to press allegations that the United States may reduce its offer of economic aid because of damage to the bases. "All it needs is the friction that can be caused by proximity of positions and that is what happened."

Also Tuesday, the last of nearly 25,000 stranded passengers left on flights from Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport, said airport manager Eduardo Carrasco.

The capital's airports were closed during the height of the eruptions and later operated on limited schedules because of ash and debris.

10 rebels killed in 3 clashes

In a separate development, government troops killed 18 Communist rebels in three insurgency-related clashes in the southern and central Philippines, the army commander said Tuesday.

Maj.-Gen. Arturo Enrile said soldiers on patrol engaged some 150 New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in a running gun battle Sunday in Santa Cruz town in Davao Del Sur province, about 990 kilometres (620 miles) south-east of Manila.

Enrile said the soldiers, backed by 105-mm Howitzer fire and helicopter gunships, gunned down eight insurgents and forced the rest of the guerrillas to flee.

He said eight soldiers were wounded in the incident and a pursuit operation was underway.

Also Sunday, another military patrol killed seven insurgents on the outskirts of Bislig in the Surigao Del Sur province, Enrile said. The town is on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

Enrile said there were no government casualties in the second skirmish.

On Tuesday, police raided a rebel camp in Mobo town of Masbate Island in the central Philippines, killing three guerrillas and capturing six others, police provincial Superintendent Alberto Olario said.

Masbate is about 385 kilometres southeast of Manila. Olario said the lawmen raided the camp on a tip from a resident about the insurgents' presence. He said the camp had 10 huts and an obstacle course and was being used to train guerrillas in the province.

Troops seized grenades, handgun and a homemade rifle from the rebels, he added.